Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

September 2021 Volume 42 Issue 9 £1.00
Minimum Donation

Welcome to our new Team Rector and Priest in Charge, The Revd Dominic Doble

Instituted, inducted, installed and licensed at a big service by the Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

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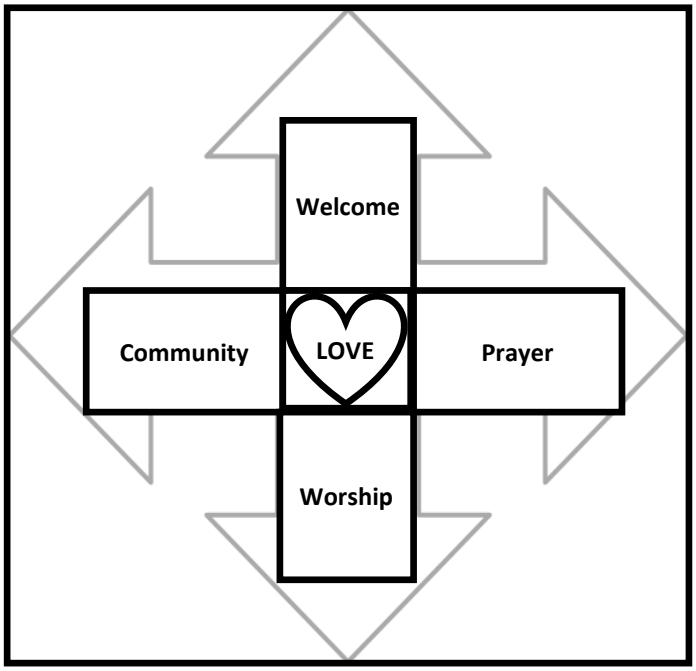

VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
for the latest information on Services etc. There are current news items and photos on our Facebook page, too:

Find us at:
blythvalleychurchessuffolk

TREASURER NEEDED!

The Friends of St Mary's Halesworth are still looking for a volunteer to act as Treasurer.
For more information please email:
win.sutton28@gmail.com

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Sunday Readings

29 August
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 4,1-2,6-9
James 1,17-end
Mark 7,1-8,14-15,21-23

5 September
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Psalm 146
Isaiah 35.4-7a
James 2,1-10[11-13],14-17
Mark 7, 24-end

12 September
Fifthteenth Sunday after Trinity
Psalm 116,1-8
Isaiah 50,4-9a
James 3,1-12
Mark 8,27-end

19 September
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Psalm 54
Wisdom of Solomon 1,16-2.1,12-22
James 3,13-4.3,7-8a
Mark 9,30-37

26 September
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Psalm 19,7-end
Numbers 11,4-6,10-16,24-29
James 5,13-end
Mark 9,38-end

3 October
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Psalm 8
Genesis 2,18-24
Hebrews 1,1-4;2,5-12
Mark 10,2-16

BVTM Team Office Opening Hours

The Team office in St Mary's Church is OPEN on
Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am - 1pm. Tel 01986 875941.
On Wednesdays and Fridays, the Team Administrator
can be contacted, from 9am - 1pm, on 07752 275328.
Or via email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Blyth Valley Team Ministry - September 2021 Rota

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

Worship in the Blyth Valley in September 2021					
Year B – track 2	**5th September Proper 18** Green	**12th September Proper 19** Green	**19th September Proper 20** Green	**26th September Proper 21** Green	**3rd October Proper 22** Green
Group 1					
Halesworth St Mary	**10.00am TEAM Service Alison**	**10.00am BCP Holy Communion David**	**10.00am Harvest Festival Jane**	**10.00am Iona Worship Jason**	**10.00am TEAM Eucharist Dominic**
Holton St Peter	To Team Service	**10.00am Eucharist Alison**	**10.00am Iona Worship John H 2.00pm Baptism Alison**	**10.00am Eucharist Margaret K**	To Team Service
Group 2					
Wenhaston St Peter	To Team Service	To Bramfield or other services	**10.00am Pause for Thought Alison**	**10.00am Harvest Festival Alison**	To Team Service
Bramfield St Andrew	To Team Service	**10.00am Eucharist with Baptism Jane**	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Blyford All Saints	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Thorington St Peter	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Group 3					
Chediston St Mary	To Team Service	**10.00am Eucharist Anna**	**10.00am Morning Worship Vic**	**11.00am Harvest Festival Linda**	To Team Service
Wissett St Andrew	To Team Service	**10.00am Breakfast Church Win**	**10.00am Eucharist David**	**6.30pm Evensong Jane**	To Team Service
Spexhall St Peter	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Linstead St Margaret	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	**9.30am Mattins Malcolm H**	To Team Service
Group 4					
Cookley St Michael	To Team Service	To other services	**10.00am Sunday Eucharist Bishop Norman** ***(Dominic to attend)***	To other services	To Team Service
Heveningham St Margaret	To Team Service	**10.00am Eucharist Dominic**	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Huntingfield St Mary	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	**10.00am Eucharist Dominic**	To Team Service

Wissett: Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper - Friday 24th September, 7.00pm

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Peter Rayson

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

SEPTEMBER 2021

5	The Revd Pam Bayliss
12	The Revd Leslie Richards HC
19	Thelma Waller
26	10am Harvest at St Peter's

Tuesday 21st Bible Study at 2.30pm

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

Father Richard Ireson

E: richard1ireson@gmail.com

Please enquire about our Service times and details

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

Gathered worship ***continues*** (Sundays 11am).

But our events also continue online: Services on Zoom include:

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

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

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

Messy Church and additional events as announced.

Sunday mornings **@ 11am** specifically, coming up:

Sun 5th Sept Gathered in the church building **(and on Zoom);**

Sun 12th Sept Gathered in the church building ***Harvest all-age worship*** **(and on Zoom);**

Sun 19th Sept Gathered in the church building **(and on Zoom);**

Sun 26th Sept Gathered in the church building **(and on Zoom).**

Contacts:

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

Judy Morton: 01502 724572,

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926,

Passcode: 811885

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From the Rector...

Thank you to all who came to my welcome service in person or online. It was a very warm and powerful affirmation of God's activity in the Blyth Valley. Thank you, too, to everyone who has made myself and Liz welcome in and around Halesworth. A number of people have dropped cards and gifts off at our home and extended the hand of friendship with invitations and assistance.

This has led me on to thinking about being thankful. This is a new start for Liz and me, with the hopes and challenges of new jobs, friends, shops and services. Is it perhaps easier to be thankful at the start? For some it is a time of endings. A young man died in a collision on the A144 on Sunday. Afghanistan has lost what it had of accountable governance. Thousands have been injured or died in earthquakes and storms in Haiti. It is a time of year when the evenings draw in and the thermometers drop. Is it really possible to be thankful in such circumstances?

Two things may help. The first is that there is an old revivalist song *Count Your Blessings.* It continues, 'count them one by one'. 'See what God has done!' Even in the worst of times, there are things for which we may be thankful. As we sit alone and in pain, a robin may visit our bird table and bring us joy. As our train is delayed again, we may discover a shared interest with a fellow passenger to whom we may not otherwise have spoken. As we find we need to self-isolate so are unable to get out for food, we learn the Community Larder is there and can help. These are things we may count as blessings.

The second thing, it seems to me, is that thankfulness can be a decision. Sometimes, situations can leave us broken, angry or lost at least to start with. I suspect we all know people who are like A A Milne's wobbly donkey Eeyore. They will say something unbearably optimistic even at the worst of times like 'at least there hasn't been an earthquake recently'! Yet, however long we've had to wait for an appointment, we can be grateful that we live in a country that has (just) a National Health Service. Whilst we must still work as we dropped through the gap when the retirement age for women moved, there was at least work for us. Without being false or annoying, we have the freedom to choose to be thankful.

Going back to that song, faith can help us with this. Especially the Christian faith. This month there are a number of Saints days. There are too many to mention here, but here is a selection. We can be thankful for the birth of Mary (8th) reminding us that God is at work preparing what God has for us long before we know it. We can give thanks for Charles Lowder (9th) who took the drama of worship and his tireless dedication to the slums of the London Docks. Thanks be for the Holy Cross (14th) on which the source of life became death, that we who were dead may have fullness of life. Thank God for Hildegard (17th) an extraordinary 11th Century Abbess, influencer of emperors and whose music still elevates the soul. We can be thankful that even the despised collaborator Matthew (21st) was able to become apostle. Thanks too that Lancelot Andrewes translated much of the Authorised Version of the Hebrew Scriptures. Thank God for Michael and all Angels (29th). Michael is one of God's chief messengers or powers, the strength of God responsible for protecting God's people and Israel. We are also thankful that our churches will also be beginning to hold their Harvest thanksgiving services across the Team.

I am thankful to be serving with all you wonderful people in this wonderful place. Not least because we lovingly work and share across our skills, talents, preferences and abilities. A final thing to be thankful for this month is our Team Away Day 10am – 4pm on the 25th September at The Hub Huntingfield. We will be counting our blessings and deciding to be thankful even as God brings some things to an end and in God some things find a new beginning!

Revd Dominic Doble

BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY ONLINE SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY at 10am

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY at 10am

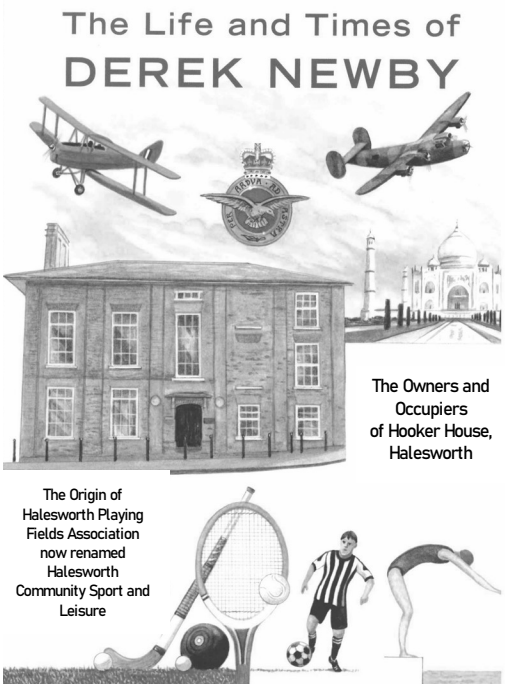
please join us for Café Worship – a reflective service of prayers and readings followed by a sociable coffee chat – the Zoom Code is advertised weekly

EVERY DAY

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

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

Copies available from Halesworth Bookshop



HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

After a brief return to parent and toddler groups in the Church in July, we had the thrill of welcoming around 10 adults and 35 children to daily sessions the first full week of the school holiday. With the building transformed to feel like a rubbish re-cycling facility, we looked at how the ministry of Jesus transformed people in all sorts of 'rubbishy' situations – and still does today!

With the new term, we are back to more families' activities, including Messy Church – which continued on Zoom through lockdown, now returning to the building. And Bramfield Chapel hosts its first return to gathered worship, 3pm on Sunday 12th September! As always, visitors from our sister churches are welcome

As we are emerging from lockdown, we all need to seek God on how we bring Good News to a hurting world. Opportunities for our own spiritual growth and equipping for ongoing service have an important part to play. One such is the Dunamis Project, including the local sessions that I have the privilege to lead, at Belsey Bridge just outside Bungay. The first session happened in March 2020 – the week that led into lockdown. After ongoing lockdown delays, we are now able to pick up again.

The second session *In the Spirit's Power* which concentrates on the Gifts of the Spirit, is Monday 4th – Friday 8th October. ***This is not denominational but for the whole church***. Details are on the website: www.dunamis.org.uk.

I would love to have folk from all churches of the Blyth Valley area join us there. Now is a good time to book places.

And let's all continue to partner with each other in the provision of hope to our community.

Blessings

Jon

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Thank you Halesworth U3A

Recently widowed and in a state of emotional desolation, I decided, against all advice, to start a new life in a new place. I needed to move away from the ever present memories and the empty chair, and I wanted easy access to the natural world.

Because Halesworth is such a very special small town, surrounded by beautiful countryside, and with so much to offer, I felt it had everything I needed to build a new life. I moved here in early spring 2020 looking forward to walking on the wonderful Millennium Green, going to concerts and performances at the Cut, having coffee in the Thoroughfare and getting to know people.

However, within days of my moving in, we had lockdown. So here I was alone in a new place, with no friends or relatives anywhere near, and now nowhere to go, no one to talk to, and not knowing how I might get help if needed.

However, I had already done one very clever thing - I had joined the Halesworth U3A and for me that turned into a lifesaver. Of course, all the U3A special interest groups had to stop meeting. However, the U3A Discussion Group kept going on Zoom and I enjoyed the stimulating discussion and getting to know, albeit digitally, such interesting and helpful people. As restrictions eased and we could meet outdoors the U3A Bird Watching Group, and the U3A Walking Group started to meet again - another opportunity to meet and exchange knowledge. By being part of the U3A, even in lockdown, I had people I could contact and get help and advice and so important - a chat and some laughter. It has offered me so many opportunities to do and find out more about the things I am interested in.

Now things are opening up I feel spoiled for choice and there are not enough days in the week. Whether it is the Real Ale Group, the Music Group or the Church Crawlers, all offer the possibility to broaden my horizons, learn new things and meet people with shared interests. In fact there are over thirty groups covering so many varied interests and opportunities. The U3A brings people together when they reach the third period of life when many of the challenges of work and family are behind us and we face the new challenge of making sure we continue to exercise our minds, our bodies and continue to make a contribution to our community. For me it has been a lifesaver. *Katherine*

Halesworth & District U3A has members from most of the Blyth Valley villages as well as Halesworth. Take a look at the Halesworth U3A website for information and a list of current Group activities at:

https://u3asites.org.uk/halesworth/home

One of the U3A's group activities

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Email Scam Warning: be Vigilant!

Someone has recently used my email account impersonating me to ask for £300 Amazon gift cards to be sent to them as they pretended to be me.

Clergy would never ask individuals to buy things on their behalf. There are authorised ways of purchasing for Team, Cluster and parish business.

Please, check the reply email carefully and consider the likely validity of the request. Do ring your minister, friend or contact to make sure it's them, or to seek advice, before responding to odd email content if you are at all suspicious.

Dominic

News from Churches Together

Before lockdown, we were holding occasional Saturday morning prayer gatherings for people from any/all of the churches. Since the pandemic, we have continued on Zoom. A major emphasis is praying for the church leaders, churches and communities across the Blyth Valley area. We are delighted that the Revd Dominic Doble is now with us.

The next of these **Ecumenical Prayer Gatherings** will have both a physical attendance and others joining on Zoom.

This will be **Saturday 18th September, 11am at Halesworth URC and on Zoom** (turn up from 10.45am/join Zoom from 10.30am) Zoom meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926, Passcode: 811885.

We really need to invite the Holy Spirit into our individual lives, our churches, our communities and indeed, our Nation! Let's 'pray in' God's presence.

Please join us, whether 'in person' in the building, or virtually. Blessings,

Jon

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BOOK REVIEW

The Book about Getting Older (for people who don't want to talk about it), by Lucy Pollock. Michael Joseph, 2021.

We are all getting older, but other than the usual grumbles about aching joints and memory loss, we don't often talk seriously about ageing; so when I saw this book in Halesworth Bookshop I bought it. I thought that, yes, we need to let our surviving family know where our wills are (and talk, at least, about Power of Attorney), where and how we want to be remembered or buried, and whether we want to be resuscitated after a major stroke or heart attack; but this book covers far more than only these ideas. For example:

- How do we ask whether it's worth taking seven different medicines? "The patient I had seen immediately before Peggy had been taking nine; the one before that, twelve. Peggy was taking fifteen."
- Is it normal to find you're falling out of love with someone, as they disappear into dementia?
- Should Dad be driving, and if not, who can stop him?
- What are the secrets of the best care homes?
- When does fierce independence become bad behaviour?
- How do you navigate near-impossible discussions around resuscitation and intensity of treatments?
- And who decides what happens when we become ill?

Dr Lucy Pollock is a consultant pychogeriatrician, specialising in the care of those who are frail and elderly, in Somerset; she is on Twitter (@lucypgeridoc) and has items on YouTube. She says that there are no easy answers to these questions, so we need to talk about those that might apply to us, honestly and while we can, to with our families and to those who are responsible for our care. She goes on to describe some of the situations for patients she has talked to, how they resolved some of the difficulties (talking about poorer driving skills, or balancing pros and cons of different drugs), and some of the outcomes for them and their families. She doesn't prescribe answers, but gives a wide range of ideas for what needs to be talked about.

And a final quote: "I have noticed something while writing this book, which is that each time someone had asked what it is about and I say that it is about getting older and things we don't want to talk about. They smile. They always smile. The smiles may be happy, or anxious, or even regretful, but they are always present, and people say, 'That's a good subject. We should talk about that.' This book provides food for thought, and probably for action for most of us. **John Hewlett**

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ALICE HOWELL

Alice Howell of Halesworth has been awarded a Bachelor of Music with First Class honours by the prestigious Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

Before she transferred to Trinity Laban she studied at Chichester University. As a member of the University Chamber Choir she toured Prague (2017) and Germany (2018). Alice also sang with the choir in Chichester, Arundel, Winchester, Salisbury and Leeds Cathedrals. She has also appeared in the Symphony Hall in Birmingham.

Locally, she has been in performances in Southwold, Bungay, Langley and Ludham. Two of the highlights of her career so far were her one-woman concerts at The Cut in Halesworth in 2017 and 2019. A music critic wrote that the concert was an outstanding performance by a young and talented soprano. In the latter *A Walk Through the Classics*, Alice sang a selection from her classical repertoire including songs and arias in French, German, Italian and English.

Following on from these successes, Alice has released two singles for which she wrote the music and the lyrics. The first is called *Home*; a sentimental and heart-warming song about love and distance. The latest, *Slow Decline*, is a reflection on her own battle with the isolation and restrictions of lockdown. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, in the last year Alice has performed as a soloist in Puzzle Piece Opera's two opera galas and made her debut in opera as Barbarina in their production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Alice's achievement of gaining a First Class Honours degree will perhaps come as no surprise to those who have heard her two singles or her two performances at The Cut.

Stable Needed!

The much-loved and now definitely geriatric Wonkey Donkey needs a new stable! For those of you who have not met him he is a life-size papier mache donkey with a rather racy hat, who stands on a wheeled platform and who leads the Palm Sunday Procession through Halesworth every year.

Wonkey Donkey has been stabled in St Mary's but the refurbishment means he needs a new home. He costs nothing for upkeep! (and needs no mucking out). We desperately need someone who can look after him in a shed or barn space, and allow us to collect him/bring him back once a year.

Please contact either Jason Busby or Jane Held if you can help.

the Dunamis project

The word 'dunamis' is Greek for power, the word specifically used in the New Testament for the power of the Holy Spirit. Linguistically, it's the root word for several English words, dynamic, dynamo, dynamite!

Just as Jesus worked in such power – preaching, teaching, healing, he also made it clear that he wants his followers to be empowered too. How else can the Church hope to fulfil the Great Commission?

This Dunamis Project event is happening near here. Having been delayed a year because of lockdowns, the opportunity to get together for worship, Bible teaching, prayer and equipping is just around the corner.

The team bring this exciting opportunity to our doorstep are from across the UK, led by Revd Jon Sermon, Halesworth URC minister and Chair of Churches Together in the Blyth Valley. You, too, could join this!

Go to www.dunamis.org.uk or ask Revd Jon Sermon, 01986 873761, about it.

At large with Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund

With the easing of Covid restrictions the Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund are now able to get back to working in the community, and have various socially-distanced activities planned.

Film Show at The Cut

We are delighted to confirm that we shall be showing the film The Intern at The Cut on Wednesday 15th September. It will be at the new time of 2pm so doors will be opening at 1.45pm. Entrance is by £5 donation. Starring, among others, Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway this is a lovely feel-good film, so we hope you can join us.

Singing with Friends

The last session on 3rd August was live at Holton Village Hall and was a great success. 20 of our carers and their loved ones met for a socially-distanced music session, and it was wonderful to actually be able to meet, make music, and enjoy a refreshment break halfway through.

Looking to the future, sessions will move to fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm – 3pm. The next session will be 1st September.

Thanks as ever to Helen Hayes for doing such a great job, and bringing so much fun and enjoyment to these sessions.

Art Group

Plans are moving forward, and these sessions, which will be led by Sophie Wood, will begin in September. The plan is to run 12 sessions, with visiting artists each week. They will be at The Cut on Thursday afternoons, from 2pm – 4pm and the first of these sessions will be on Thursday 23rd September. The sessions are aimed at people living with dementia and their family carers, and it would be helpful if those wishing to attend would let Teresa Fyfe know on 07739 643469.

John Wood

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN AUGUST

BAPTISMS

Mya-Rose Bishop-Bexley at Holton
Boden Ezra Payne at Halesworth
Ollie John Barnard at Halesworth
Audrey Rose Teager at Halesworth

WEDDINGS / BLESSINGS

Will Cronin and Paige Greenbank at Holton
Oli Smith and May Holloway at Huntingfield
Isai Martinez and Rachel Sparkes at Wissett
Robbie Keeble and Natasha Dennington at Worlingham
Joe Parker and Sarah Downing at Chediston

FUNERALS / BURIAL OF ASHES

Bertram Ernest George Foster at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough
Reginald Carrington at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough
Pauline Anne Self at Holton
Richard Guthrie at Holton
Doris Loftus at Huntingfield
Gillian Ruth Painting at Holton
Graham Cecil Adkins at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough

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Mothers' UNION
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This month we are featuring articles from Peculiar Times! No 19.
Please visit: www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk or: www.musuffolk.org.uk to read the full version of the newsletter

Mary Sumner Day Service

This was a very special occasion as it was the first time we had been able to come together since the start of the pandemic. The service of thanksgiving for our founder and the work of MU over the past 145 years was well attended with members coming from all parts of our diocese. The repaired Diocesan Banner was on display and great to see (thank you, Penny).

The **Mary Sumner Award** was launched at council in March 2020 and was to be given to the branch that gained the most new members for 2021. The cathedral succeeded in enrolling four brand new members and four members, who had transferred from other branches. This on top of their most successful fundraising events during lockdown, showing the indomitable spirit of Mothers' Union. They were presented with the glass award at the cathedral service. Congratulations to them.

The service in the cathedral was also the opportunity to thank **Keith Foulds** for all he has done over the past 13 years to keep our finances in such good order. Behind the scenes he has given so much time and expertise to the vital work of ensuring the diocesan accounts are secure and accurate. Keith was given an engraved plaque and garden tokens and Ann was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The service was streamed online so if you were unable to attend you can now watch it on YouTube on both the Cathedral and on our website. The service sheet is also on our website, and hopefully you'll be able to see a picture of our upgraded banner.

'For Better, For Worse'

At a recent mini-MU meeting at East Bergholt and Brantham Branch, six of us were discussing the topic of marriage and as a result a new chapter has been added to our book, 'For Better, For Worse', entitled **THE IN-LAWS!** This will include experiences of having an in-law as well as the way in which we have chosen to be a mother-in-law/ father-in-law. You can always send you contribution in as ANON, or give yourself a nom de plume for this chapter. I am still hoping for more contributions to the other chapters as well. Please don't think your memories won't be good enough. Every single contribution that has arrived has been wonderful. Closing date is September 10th.

Jeanette Appleton 07768 418942

North Suffolk Area

We are delighted that we will be able to hold our North Suffolk Area Morning on 22nd September. This will be in Fressingfield, where we will start with a Communion Service in the church before moving across to the Sancroft Hall for coffee etc. Following time to explore the bric-a-brac, produce and MUe stalls we will hear from Anji Dawkins about Kagera in Tanzania. Everyone is welcome to attend this event whether or not you live in the North Suffolk Area.

Anna Vessey 01379 588389

Connected

We have spare copies of the new magazine and also the 2021 Prayer Diary for anyone who didn't receive their copy, or for any new members who have joined this year. Please let Clare Thomas know (01473 832808 or clare.thomas@btinternet.com) if you would like copies. Please also ensure that any address changes are given to Beryl Mee or Clare Thomas so that the autumn magazine gets to you!

MUe

The autumn/winter catalogues are now out, and all branch leaders should have received copies to circulate around members. There are some lovely gifts in the catalogue this year, and great presents for children too. If you get a second copy, why not show it to friends and family who might like to support Mothers' Union. All profits go to MU projects, and 10% of sales in our diocese come back to our Diocese to spend on MU projects in Suffolk. If you would like more copies of the catalogue please contact Clare Thomas (01473 832808 or clare.thomas@btinternet.com). We still have our own handmade face masks for sale, so if you'd like one made specially in MU fabric for the bargain price of £4 just let Clare know.

Making Christmas Cards for Prisoners at Highpoint

Each year Diocesan Members make Christmas cards for prisoners at Highpoint Prison, near Newmarket. We recycle the pictures from used Christmas cards and remount these with a message from Mothers' Union.

Last year we were not able to meet face to face to do this, but this year we plan to meet at the home of Di Barker at Great Ashfield near Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 8th

(Continued on page 13)

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

September between 10am and 3pm to do all the sticking that is required to make these cards. We welcome help from any MU members. There is usually a 'Bring and Buy' where the money raised helps with the cost of glue sticks and envelopes etc.

If you feel you could help please contact Di Barker on 01359 241045 who can provide further details.

Caroline Virgo, Director of the Clewer Initiative writes – 'The power to end modern slavery already exists within local communities, we just need to harness it.

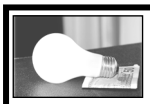
What better way for the Church to use its presence, than to lead the way in helping communities pull together to keep slavery and exploitation out of their neighbourhoods or to provide support to victims. Our Diocese hosts a Network of Christians and professional agencies with the potential to achieve that goal.

The presence of modern slavery is not a reflection on the community itself, it can live anywhere - from busy urban neighbourhoods to sleepy villages; prosperous commuter towns, busy tourist centres, disadvantaged areas, and quiet rural areas. One of the biggest reasons for its presence is its ability to go unseen and undisturbed. That's why working at a community level is vital. By understanding modern slavery in a community context, we can expose it, make sure it's seen and find safe ways of disrupting it.

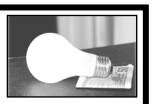
On 16th September a Clewer Conference for Diocesan Modern Slavery Leads will be held at Lambeth. Please pray for this conference and its outcomes.

MU Bristol is crocheting a linked chain to represent those affected by Modern Slavery in their city. If a Giant Chain has potential to be effective here then watch this space!

Christine Ward



"LET THERE BE LIGHT"
HELP US KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!



St Peter's Church SPEXHALL has failed its safety certificate.

WE NEED £5,000 - £8,000 to repair it.

All donations very welcome!

Details of how to donate:

Jane: 07771 556391 or jane@janeheld.co.uk

Cheques to: The Treasurer, c/o Meadow Cottage, Stone Street, Spexhall, Halesworth IP19 0RN

MU North Suffolk Area Morning 22.9.21

Mothers' Union members in the North Suffolk Area are so pleased to be able to meet again this year. It will be on Wednesday 22nd September from 10am to 1.30pm, in Fressingfield. We shall start with a Eucharist in the Church, followed by coffee/tea and biscuits for any who would like them, in the nearby Sancroft Hall. This will be followed by our meeting. Our speaker will be **Anji Dawkins** who will update us on **Kagera**, the Diocese in Tanzania with which our Diocese has a special link. It is not one of our MU Diocesan overseas links, but is close to Lake Malawi, in Malawi, which is. Anji is a very good speaker. I am sure she will have lots of first-hand interesting experiences to share with us.

There will be various stalls, Bric-a-Brac, cakes and produce, a raffle and MUe. Clare Thomas will be bringing various greeting cards, calendars, diaries, gifts and Christmas cards! **Halesworth, Wenhaston, Southwold & Reydon will be responsible for the Cakes and Produce Stall.** Linda Ginn, our Diocesan President, will lead our Midday Prayers.

This year we have decided not to have a Bring and Share Lunch as we feel members will be more comfortable bringing their own packed lunch. All precautions will be taken in both the church and hall to ensure everyone will be Covid-19 safe.

This event is not just for MU members, but is open to anyone, man or woman who would like to find out about Kagera. You will be most welcome. There will be plenty of parking. If you would like a lift or more information do ask me, Win Sutton, Margaret Goldstone or Margaret Bloomfield. If you cannot come but are able to bake or provide something from your garden, please do let me know. All contributions gratefully received. Please look for the poster in this magazine.

Mary Sumner Day – 9th August. Mary Elizabeth Sumner was born in 1828 at Swinton. In 1848 she married a young curate, George Henry Sumner, nephew of Archbishop Sumner, and who himself became Bishop of Guildford in 1888. A mother of three children, Mary called a meeting in 1876 at which the Mothers' Union was founded, providing a forum in which to unite mothers of all classes in the aim of bringing up children in the Christian faith. Baptism and parental example were its two basic principles. At first a parochial organisation, it grew steadily into an international movement, encouraging the ideal of a Christian home. Mary died on 9th August 1921.

Mary Sumner died 100 years ago and it is 145 years since she founded Mothers' Union. That is two good reasons to celebrate the day. At 11am the Eucharist was celebrated by members from across the Diocese in our Cathedral. This was followed by a picnic lunch in the Abbey Gardens in Bury. This service has taken place for a number of years since there has been a Mothers' Union Branch at the Cathedral. I hope it was well attended by members who live rather closer than we do.

MU at I-Chameleon 21st – 27th October. All donations of good quality bric-a-brac, household goods, preserves, books, CDs, DVDs, toiletries, toys, etc., will be most gratefully received, at least a week beforehand, to be priced. Halesworth Branch will be responsible for the pop-up shop on Friday 22nd and Wenhaston on Tuesday 26th October.

Janet Walkey, MU Deanery Leader for Waveney & Blyth. 01986 872594. janetwalkey@hotmail.com

WALK FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Angles Way takes in the beautiful scenery of the Waveney Valley following the Norfolk/Suffolk border. Snaking across 93 miles of open country along the rivers Yare, Waveney and Little Ouse. I am attempting to walk The Angles Way. During my walk I will be focusing my thoughts on people around the world who have been suffering from extreme weather conditions for years, causing loss of livelihoods, famine, disease, and desperate poverty. We know that it is rich countries like our own that have created these disasters. Is it not time to consider others?

During *The Great Big Green Week*, September 18th – 26th, we have an opportunity to support events and activities in our area which will create more awareness of Climate Change and how SERIOUS it is.

I am supporting Christian Aid and their efforts to help the world's poorest people.

On Saturday 25th September, I would love people to join me at Bath Hills, Bungay for about five miles.

People who attend are invited to contribute to Christian Aid and asked to car share to help SAVE THE PLANET!

I am aiming to walk the whole of The Angles Way (but not in a hurry!). Please get in touch with me if you would like to join me on one or more sections. The aim is to raise money for Christian Aid and to travel to and from walks in as climate friendly a way as possible - car share, train, bus or even cycle.

Everyone who completes a section of the walk will receive a certificate recognising their involvement in *The Great Big Green Week*. As Bonnie dog and I are both nursing knee injuries, it will be some challenge to complete the walk, but we are determined and look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to join us. **Jackie Watts, 01986 835752**

DIARY DATES

New Start Time! **Special Film Matinee of**

The Intern

caring with dignity

HALESWORTH *dementia* CARERS' FUND

Charity no. 1170477

at THE CUT, Halesworth
Wednesday 15th September 2021
1.45 for 2pm
Entrance by £5 donation

Brass on the Grass

The Rotary Club of Southwold & District's ***Brass on the Grass*** is being held on Sunday 19th September, from 12 noon on Jubilee Green, Reydon. Attractions include Wrentham Brass Band, barbecue, bar and local stalls.

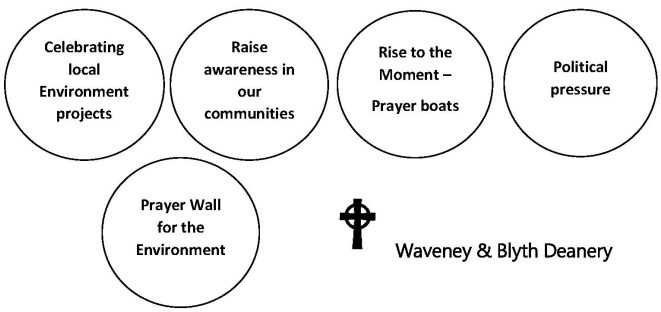
Climate Justice - What can we do?

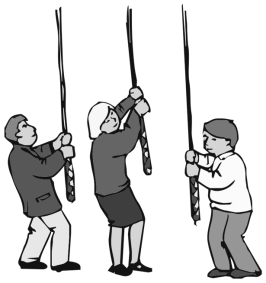
Countdown to COP26

Christian Aid and other charities have planned many ways that churches can join the campaign for climate justice in the run-up to the Environmental Conference in Glasgow in November. Across the Waveney and Blyth Deanery we are hoping that all churches will take an active part, demonstrating our Christian duty to care for the vulnerable and to protect God's creation.

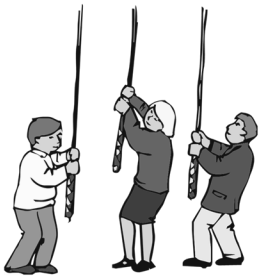
For further details, please contact me at: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk

I will be arranging a meeting for those interested in organising actions in their own churches. **Revd. Alison Alder, Assistant Curate BVTM**





From the Ringing Chamber



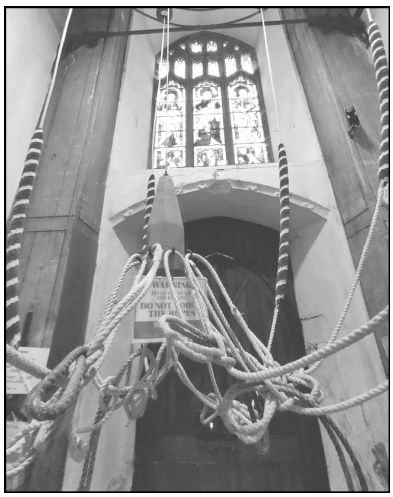
As a band of ringers, we're quite a cautious lot, and far too intelligent to take Government propaganda at face value, although none of us is a conspiracy theorist! But when the anti-covid rules were relaxed, we met in the virtual pub to discuss what ***we*** were happy to do, and not to do. We agreed that we should limit the number of ringers at a practice (which means I maintain a rota), limit the time spent ringing (to between 45 and 60 minutes) and, in general, wear masks. Social distancing is difficult in a ringing chamber where the ropes are only about a metre apart, and there is a particular difficulty at Halesworth where the four heaviest bells are difficult to raise by one person alone (unless it's Pete or Jason in macho mood), which means two ringers standing millimeters apart and breathing heavily over each other with the effort.

We therefore agreed that we would not, for the time being, resume regular ringing at Halesworth. We did, however, agree to make an exception for Dominic's inauguration service. Jason volunteered to get the bells up the day before (putting the clock chimes out of action in the meantime, but hey ho) so there was not too much stale air in the ringing chamber when we started.

It seemed appropriate to attempt a quarter peal for the occasion, which we could complete within 45 minutes if we kept a good pace, and I decided it would be sensible, given our lack of practice, to keep things simple and stick with Plain Bob Triples, that is a relatively simple method with the tenor ringing last all the time to give the ringing pace and stability.

And so it was that the Ringing World's website "Bellboard" recorded the following:

On Tuesday 10th August 2021 in 45 minutes **Halesworth, Suffolk**. St Mary. Tenor: 18¼ cwt in E. **1260 Plain Bob Triples.**



1 Matthew Rolph (cond); 2 Philip Gorrod; 3 Sal Jenkinson; 4 Jason Busby; 5 Nick Hughes; 6 Nicole Rolph; 7 Peter Lock; 8 Jonathan Iles.

First on 8 as conductor. By local band for the service of induction of the Revd Dominic Doble as Rector of the Blyth Valley Team.

Despite our rustiness we rang a very good quarter (Pete said afterwards "I hope he won't expect it to be like that every time").

Matthew's calls were spot on, Jon's tenor ringing gave us rock solid stability and a good rhythm, and there were hardly any trips. You couldn't really ask for more.

But that's it for now folks, until cases subside, everyone is double-jabbed, and we're feeling more confident.

In the meantime, we *ARE* getting in some practice, having been invited to make use of Blythburgh's enormous space and easy-going bells.

Practices there have been happening twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) with eight named ringers at each for a maximum of an hour.

It has given some of our less experienced ringers the chance to put into practice what they have learned virtually over the last eighteen months, and for the rest of us it has helped to shed some cobwebs and remember that ringing can be fun.

PJG

NO BAD FEET

Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

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I AM AVAILABLE FOR HOME VISITS
BY APPOINTMENT

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Bramfield	Robert Gamble	**01502 478682**
Chediston	Veronica Downing	**01986 873184**
Cookley	Jane Evers	**01986 785209**
Halesworth	Jason Busby John Ball	**01986 873336** **01986 874962**
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	**01986 798408** **01986 798533**
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevett	**01986 875913** **01986 872467**
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	**01986 785343**
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	**01986 785289**
Spexhall	Fred Woods	**01986 781256**
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	**01502 478078**
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Email: karen.wynne.evans@virgin.net

Jason Busby *Organist - Halesworth, Holton and Team*
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Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

20a SIGN OF THE FISH books cards refreshments

Telephone: 07770 465 785

The Sign of the Fish is open Monday – Wednesday 9.30am – 1pm; (Thursday closed); Friday 9.30am – 1pm

First of all an invitation (if you've had a chance to read this September issue of your *BVTimes* before the end of August!)

Sign of the Fish is holding its AGM
Saturday 28th August at 2pm in Bramfield URC Chapel.
Followed by delicious refreshments

On a more sombre note, few of us can be unaware of the sad rise in domestic abuse during the pandemic lockdown, a time when help was hard to come by. Back in April 2020 *The New York Times* reported that domestic violence had already become more frequent, more severe and more dangerous, as governments everywhere failed to prepare for the way lockdown measures would affect abusers and their victims. As recently as August 11th this year the same newspaper singled out Britain as suffering a crisis of violence against women and quoting Jess Phillips, Labour MP for Birmingham Yardley, on "a litany of failures… nothing is changing, even though victims keep being promised it is."

What can Christians do to help or even understand the problem? Many dioceses and synods are offering training and guidance in Safeguarding issues, an offer we should all consider taking up, perhaps.

We could also read this book:

Out of Control: couples, conflict and the capacity for change, by Natalie Collins, published by the SPCK. "All of us will be familiar with supporting friends, family and colleagues through the ups and downs of relationships. But could some of the more difficult times of argument and conflict be more than general relationship issues? Is there something more sinister going on? Over the course of a lifetime, 30% of women and 16% of men will be subjected to abuse by a partner, yet so many of us are unsure exactly what constitutes domestic abuse, and wouldn't know how to react if we, or one of our friends or family, found ourselves in a relationship with an abuser. Natalie Collins is the perfect guide to lead you through this subject, amassing over a decade's experience leading workshops, raising awareness and capturing national media attention in her work against domestic abuse. Highly readable, invaluably insightful and steeped in theological insight, Natalie starts right from the basics, exploring what domestic abuse is, why it is perpetrated and the impact it has on children and adults. Filled with case studies, including Natalie's own story, this book offers much-needed advice on how we can address domestic abuse, both as individuals and as a church community." (From the "blurb").

Bag a Bargain: Our Summer Sale continues; here is this month's *Bag a Bargain*:

The Jesus of Suburbia, by Mike Erre, published by Thomas Nelson. Have we created a Jesus in our own image, the author asks; he continues "Jesus never called us to be believers - he calls us to be followers who believe."

In a fresh, lively manner, he helps us understand that the real Jesus is calling us to live, act, and think in ways that overturn the status quo. He lambastes our love of theology instead of Jesus, our contentment with 'simply knowing about him instead of knowing him.' After all, says Erre, 'if you follow Jesus, you follow the most radical man who ever existed.'

Val Jennings
For Sign of the Fish

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www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

Life in Bramfield trundles on. With school holidays upon us, it is in some ways much quieter, but in others, there are many more visitors.

It is great that June is able to take tours round the church again. We are getting back into the rhythm of church life again and are beginning to bend our heads round new and exciting ways to raise funds.

In the meantime the traditional ways remain, not least the Suffolk Bike Ride on September 11th. Please sponsor anyone you know who is riding that day. All funds raised are split between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and St Andrew's Church.

It is a joy to see the pub open and thriving in the shadow of the East window.

School is back at the beginning of September and we look forward to being able to start regular assemblies again.

The new Rector, the Revd Dominic has arrived and is up and running. He takes his first service at St Andrew's in November (the challenges of getting round 14 churches).

We will of course be holding a service on Remembrance Sunday, at 10.50am starting with an Act of Remembrance. Our Harvest Festival is at 10am on October 10th.

Chediston

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

SHC Ride and Stride

As mentioned in last month's issue the Suffolk Historic Churches "Ride & Stride" takes place this year on Saturday 11th September. Last year, thanks to Graeme Williams, Oliver Wareham and John Parson, the sum of £1593 was raised – half of which came back to St Mary's. Let's hope we can match this in 2021. Sponsorship forms are available from Sally Aldous at Chediston Hall, tel 01986 873363.

Wedding of Tom Eames and Becky Burroughes

This took place on Saturday 31st July when the weather was very kind and the sun shone. Friends and family gathered at St Mary's waiting eagerly for the arrival of the bride as it was promised to be something rather special. Someone said: "I can hear it coming" and soon a vintage Fordson tractor hove into view towing a beautifully decorated cart carrying the bride, her father and six bridesmaids, two of whom were the little girls of one of them.

All the dresses were beautiful, Becky's was gracefully flowing with a train and featuring lace detail to the back which carried on down to the body of the dress. Her veil was held in place by a flowered hairclip. The two little girls were in peach with the other four in sleeveless fitted mint green full-length dresses which looked stunning. Covid regulations were still in place, so everyone donned masks inside the church (apart from the bride and groom). Becky was given away by her father and the service was beautifully taken by Alison with readings by Becky's two uncles and two hymns were sung; (albeit quietly through our masks) *Morning has Broken* and *Angel Voices Ever Singing*.

The register was signed and the bells rang out in some nicely struck call changes while photos were taken outside in the sunshine. The cart was loaded up again, this time Tom took his place next to his new bride (Just Married had now miraculously appeared!) while Becky's parents travelled in a smart Daimler. The reception was held in the garden in their home at Chediston Green. It was a lovely day and we wish Tom and Becky every happiness in their married life together.

Chediston Churchyard "annual spruce up"

Jonny Vaughan has taken over churchyard maintenance and was in charge of the spruce up this year. He has done this kind of thing before and has used his conservation knowledge working out a plan for the growth of more wildflowers and fewer invading grasses. Over 22 people from the village came and helped, including several newcomers who set to work cutting, strimming and raking. Thank you all so much. The churchyard looks wonderful.

Pat Twyman

Pat has recently been in hospital having fallen over and broken her hip and right arm. She is now at home being looked after by her son and daughter-in-law. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Car Boot Sale – 8th August

This took place on the community field and luckily the weather was favourable. Many thanks to Joanna, Oliver and Geoff for all their hard work. A very happy day was had by all and there were many bargains to be picked up at the boots of people's cars.

New Rector

We will be welcoming the Revd Dominic Doble to our service on Sunday 22nd August. We hope that he and his wife Liz will be very happy working for the Blyth Valley Team. It will be good to get to know them both.

News of Ann and Graeme Williams

Extract of letter received by your correspondent:

"We are writing to you as the representative of St Mary's Chediston congregation, to thank you all for the very moving "send-off" you gave us at our last service. The beautiful basket, gardening voucher and little party afterwards meant so much to us and were so unexpected, and indeed unnecessary but nevertheless, greatly appreciated. Thank you everyone we already miss you and our lovely church.

We are gradually settling in to our new home with the help of litres of white paint and plenty of picture hooks. On good days it's quite a treat to sit out on the terrace looking over the garden to the woods and hills beyond, but it is no real substitute for Chediston. Of course, the real "pay off" is to see so much more of our family and baby Martha, all of whom we have missed enormously during the last 18 months.

We hope it won't be too long before we can meet up again, it's slightly tricky travelling with the dogs, but I daresay we will manage somehow. In the meantime, keep well and happy! Lots of love Ann and Graeme."

Chediston & Linstead WI

The Garden Party was held on 10th August at Grove Farm, Linstead where we were hosted by Sarah and Colin Hackshall. What a wonderful time we all had – a delicious tea in their very pretty and spacious garden with their donkeys and dogs taking a rather sceptical view! Afterwards many of us took part in a spirited game of croquet on their lawn. Very many thanks to Sarah and Colin for their great hospitality.

Unpaid *BVTimes* Subscriptions

We still have a few *BVTimes* subscriptions to be received from Chediston subscribers. Could you let Sally Aldous (01986 873363) have your £12 payment as soon as possible please. Many thanks.

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336

This evening (17/8) Sarah and I were snuggled on the sofa watching the modern take on the Disney classic *Beauty and the Beast* and a song called *Days in the Sun* was sung, the song speaks about reflecting on life. How I feel about several different situations was summed up perfectly with the words… "How in the midst of all this sorrow can so much love and hope endure". With the date set for the funeral of Margaret Deering (27/8/21), I have been reflecting on Margaret and Alan's life. Over the last few months, from time to time, I have been reading Night Prayer on the Team's Facebook page. I asked Margaret if I could use the cross of Jesus she gifted to St Mary's, along with the candle stands used on the altar in the Lady Chapel, I have today reunited the cross with the stands, pictured here....

Anna Wright shares her memories of Margaret, "I remember Margaret as a very kind, generous and conscientious woman. She was meticulous in keeping clean all of St Mary's linen, vestments etc, a stalwart of the team. Alan and Margaret were so devoted to each other. They had such a deep faith and were strong and loving witnesses for our Lord. At least they are now reunited and will know the One True and All-Embracing Love of God that surpasses our own pale semblances of it". We will always remember Alan and Margaret every time we light the Lady Chapel candles gifted by Margaret following Alan's death. May Margaret rest in peace, reunited with Alan and rise in glory.

On the same day as planning for Margaret's funeral, we heard the shocking news of the death of Ben Doughty, who died in a car crash on the Bungay Straight on Sunday 15th August after attending the Baptism of his Godson, Ollie, in St Mary's that afternoon. Ben leaves his partner Nicole and two sons Max, aged 6, and Alfie, aged 9. Ben has been taken too soon in life. Another reminder to us all how to live every day to the full. May God's presence be felt through the family and friends' shock and grief and God's support be with them in the days ahead. Grace, mercy and peace be with Ben.

Now for some joyful news and blimey do we need it!

On Tuesday 10th August the Revd Dominic Doble was instituted, installed, inducted and welcomed as our new Team Rector. What an occasion it was. To hear the bells for the first time this year and to hear a church full singing *Lord for the years* with gusto (which may have been my fault as I had nearly ALL the stops out on the organ!) was an emotional moment, a release from the restrictions of this past 10 months. In his sermon Bishop Martin charged us that, "As restrictions are lifted, we cannot, and must not, simply go back to the way things were."

There is no risk of that happening in the Blyth Valley. You only have to look at the physical changes to St Mary's! At the end of July we filled a skip with what Jane described at "tut"/we cleaned, then painted the floor (three times)/prepared St Mary's as a place of worship and WOW does she look good, feel good and now the new carpets are fully fitted. Just the radiators to be reinstalled, the outer south aisle to be cleaned and painted and then we can celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of the Regeneration project.

Here's to the future, WELCOME Dominic and Liz.

John Ball and I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has made Phase 1 possible for your love, prayers and support and for some hard labour! THANK YOU to everyone who made Dominic's licensing service an occasion

to remember. Far too many people to name you all!

A prayer I wish to share with you, Dominic's first service with us on Sunday 15th August we celebrated the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dominic used this prayer called The Angelus. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women, And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Son of Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word. And the Word was made Flesh. And dwelt among us. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. LET US PRAY Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen. Dominic tells me that traditionally a bell is tolled three times at each of the first three responsaries which are straight scripture and nine times during the final prayer so those present and those in earshot may pray together.

Let us pray… Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The first service to take place in the newly painted, clean and tidy St Mary's was the Baptism of baby Boden Ezra Payne on August 8th. (A service moved from St Andrew's Bramfield to Halesworth due to a large family). Welcome to the family of Christ Boden. We pray… God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Finally, from me, our main event in September is over the weekend of 18th and 19th September when we join with all of Halesworth in the Heritage Open Weekend. St Mary's has a full list of events for the weekend, you can find out more information about what is happening on pages 26 and 27 of this issue, or by visiting the website www.heritageopendays.org.uk

RIDE AND STRIDE

John Ball (St Mary's Halesworth) and Keith Noakes (St Peter's Spexhall) will be riding to raise funds this year's Ride and Stride on September 11th. If anyone would like to sponsor them, please see their respective 'Just Giving' page on the SHCT website, or speak to John.

John is also looking for volunteers to steward in Church for the Ride and Stride event on Saturday 11th.

THANK YOU FROM JANE

It is time to say the hugest thank you ever to loads and loads of people - too many to mention each by name, but we need to say a giant thank you to the army of volunteers that cleared, lugged, threw out, cleaned, scrubbed and painted St Mary's Halesworth as well as to Ray Munn Paints, Ben Quorn Carpenter and Team, Simon Maunder Plumbing and Halesworth Carpet Shop as well as all who sponsored new chairs. And the second huge thank you is to everyone who helped make Dominic's Installation, Induction, and Licensing so lovely – thank you choir, musicians, flower arrangers, the people who donated fabulous food and the people who organised, serviced and cleared up, Jason and John, and Carolyn in the office, who kept us all sane.

ST MARY'S RECEIPTS

June receipts:	
Planned giving	£851.00
Gift aid	£161.00
Fees	£397.00
Collections inc. funerals	£486.00
Sum up	£19.00
Total	**£1,914.00**

July receipts:	
Planned giving	£1,352.00
Gift aid	£286.00
Fees	£605.00
Collections inc. funerals	£594.00
Masterclass fee	£50.00
Sum up	£19.00
Total	**£2,906.00**

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S
50/50 CLUB

This month's Friends 50/50 draw results: 1st, C Kiddy; 2nd, A Baldwin; 3rd, W Pagan.

Heveningham

Temporary Correspondent:
Jane Held
07771 556391

Our first column in the Blyth Valley Times! A long term correspondent to write a monthly short column would be very welcome, but in the meantime I have said I will write something.

St Margaret's is open again and has had the benefit of some very thorough cleaning and lots of tlc.

The Annual General Meeting of the PCC was held in the early Summer and Camilla Warrillow and Janet Pleasance continue as churchwardens. We are incredibly grateful as it is a lot of work and their continued dedication to and love for the communities of Heveningham and Ubbeston and for St Margaret's comes at no small cost!

Ian Macfarlane, Tina Norton, Lois Hunt and Thomas Seymour were all elected as PCC members, Ian as Vice Chair and Lesley Sutton continues as Treasurer.

Janet and Camilla attended the licensing service for the new Priest in Charge, the Revd Dominic Doble, and we look forward to welcoming him to his first service at Heveningham on September 12th at 10am.

Fund raising has now become a major concern as the Covid-19 closures mean that almost no income has been received for nearly two years. If anyone has any great ideas for fundraising we would be delighted! We are exploring all sorts of things but we will definitely *(assuming Covid-19 does not rear its head again)* be holding the traditional Christmas Fair which is always well supported by the village.

We are hoping some folk will do sponsored rides for us on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Day on September 11th. At 6.30pm on October 10th we will be holding our traditional Harvest Festival Songs of Praise followed by a Harvest Supper.

Please help me write this monthly piece by letting me have any news items you wish included of interest to Heveningham and Ubbeston folk.

Holton

Temporary Correspondent
John Hewlett 01986 875913
johnfhewlett@btinternet.com

Holton Flower Festival

Our flower festival this year was a great success. The theme was *My Favourite Film*, and we had many films displayed around the church by our amazing team of flower arrangers. We were glad to have a few new faces joining us too and hope they will be back again next year.

We had musicals, comedies, and serious films on show, and even some black and whites, all telling the story of the film; so well done and Thank You to everyone.

Things were a bit different with the refreshments this year as we had to have table service which worked really well with tables inside and out full of visitors enjoying tea and cakes. Dawn and Sue very kindly organised the Tombola once more with lots of prizes to be won. The Raffle was also manned throughout the weekend by willing helpers. As usual Betty organised the Stewards who welcomed our guests and explained the Covid rules.

Our weekend was brought to a close by a Songs of Praise on the Paddock (see below). We were also very blessed with the weather as storms were forecast all week but never arrived thank goodness.

It was a good weekend all round, a chance to meet friends and chat which hasn't been easy for a while, we even made a good amount of money as £1,124.53 was raised for Church funds so thank you again to all who helped in any way. **Dot and Helen**

Songs of Praise, Sunday 25th July

We held our Songs of Praise outside Holton Church on the paddock. The weather was warm as it had been all the weekend. Garden chairs were brought from home, some even matching the colours being worn by the bringers! The age range included Sophie and Emelia Busby, teenager Kaeleh (Alison and Geoff C's granddaughter from Hastings} up to us, the more mature. There was a sense of anticipation and joy. We were joined by a friend from Lowestoft and another friend from Exeter … word had got around!

Alison A led our worship with Jason on the electronic keyboard. Before each hymn Alison gave a short resume about it – the writer, when it was written, etc. Our hymns included: *Blessed assurance*, *Crown Him with many crowns*, *Lord of all hopefulness*. Sophie had chosen her favourite song, *Lord of the Dance*. And it was at that point that the instruments were handed out! We had tambourines of varying sizes, shakers and of course triangles. We also made use of our hands. We created a 'joyful noise'. Between the hymns Denise and Alison C gave us two Bible readings and our 'Poet in Residence' Dottie read her *Flower Festival* poem. Bill led our prayers. Our last hymn, chosen by Alison A was *The day thou gavest Lord is ended* and she reminded us that although our evening praise was coming to an end, people in other parts of our world were starting their worship.

I have two stand-out memories of our evening. One: Kaeleh carrying an enormous pile of hymn books up the path from paddock to church. The top book left her eyes just peeking out – very skilfully done. The second: as I was going to my car to drive home, the Busby family were running around the Labyrinth laughing and enjoying the remains of the evening – just being themselves. Others who were there will have their own memories of the occasion. Do ask Alison A about her outstanding one (it concerns a tambourine!)

Our Songs of Praise brought together, in a very simple way, our thanks to God for such a wonderful Flower Festival Weekend. **Joan Horbury**

Children's Society Box Opening
30th September

Just a reminder to Children's Society Box Holders that there will be a **Box Opening in St Peter's Holton on Thursday 30th September 10am to 12 midday.** Please will you put the date in your diaries and on your calendars?

If you haven't much in your box we would still like it in. Every little helps the Children's Society to continue their invaluable work. You can always put a note or two in your box or write a cheque made out to 'The Children's Society'.

I do hope those who usually help empty the boxes and count the money, serve refreshments, and sell the raffle tickets,

will be available to lend a hand on the morning. I will endeavour to ask everyone in due course. A couple of folks have volunteered already. If there are enough counters, everyone only needs to do it for an hour. If you can supply a raffle prize and/or something for the Bring & Buy, that would be great.

If you are going to be away or cannot make it on the 30th, please can you get your box to me beforehand or give it to a friend to bring. It is good to have all the boxes to open on the day. It makes life so much easier.

I still have a few new boxes for anyone else who would like to have one. Give me a ring. **Janet Walkey,**

Local Co-ordinator for The Children's Society St Peter's Holton & St Mary's Halesworth 01986 872594

janetwalkey@hotmail.com

Labyrinth

On Monday 9th August the Revd Judy Bailey (now working with the Sole Bay Ministry) brought a small group to look at the Labyrinth in the paddock; the group has been looking together (Covid permitting) at prayer and different ways of praying. We started with a brief historical overview of labyrinths and their use by Christians throughout the ages; then Jackie & Jim Watts talked about the Holton Labyrinth and how it came into being; and then we walked the labyrinth – together at intervals, and therefore also apart.

Those of us who had done it spoke briefly about how and when we had done it, and how different occasions made it seem new every time, and not repetitive; and how we had seen different people (and groups of people) walk it. We ended with prayers and a cup of tea.

It was interesting to hear opinions from people who hadn't seen it before, and most people said they would come back and walk it again. Judy offered to lead a similar session for St Peter's and the Team if people wanted it: so if you would like to learn a little more about it, or hear about it again, please let me know. (It might have to wait until next year, after winter weather and spring showers!) **John Hewlett**

Reminder – Marmalade

I still have quite a few jars of this year's Seville orange marmalade. The recipe includes lemons. There is no way we can eat it all ourselves! Maybe you are getting near the end of your last jar? Ring or email me and if I am here we can arrange a time for you to collect, or I can deliver. The cost is 1lb - £2, 12oz - £1.50, 8oz - £1. (I only have a few 8oz). I recently gave Holton's treasurer £72. This didn't include marmalade sold at the Flower Festival.

Janet Walkey

STOP PRESS

St Peter's is now open 9am to 5pm from Sunday 22nd August. Hallelujah!

Those of you who use the footpath between Lodge Road and Beccles Road will have noticed that the hedges are becoming overgrown. We are having a hedge-cutting day on Thurs 7th October, time to be announced later. Bring your own gloves, secateurs and protective clothing, some of the hedges are vicious!

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke sally.clarke@live.com

September… the time of year when you can start to tidy the flower borders and plan for the autumn planting and displays. The month that we send our children and grandchildren back to school and hopefully with no interruptions this coming year. A time to pursue new hobbies and maybe even start to plan for future holidays and foreign travel (that makes me nervous just writing it) but a time to look forward and possibly start to fill in spaces on our calendars that for the last 18 months have been so empty. One date that you may want to make a note of is Sept 18th when we are holding our Harvest Supper at The Hub in Huntingfield at 6.30pm. On offer is a two course home cooked seasonal supper for £11 per head. Children under 12 eat for free. BYO drinks. We are excited to welcome Dominic and Liz to our event and to introduce them both to the villagers. Dominic will also be taking the Eucharist service at St Mary the Virgin, Huntingfield on Sept 26th at 10am. Everyone is welcome. To reserve a seat at our supper please email me, sally.clarke@live.com

This month we have to say a big thank you, to David, Brian and Jeff who for the last few weeks have been digging out a trench around most of the church to backfill with shingle. This was an urgent action from our recent Quinquennial Inspection and necessary to help alleviate the damp problem within the church. Thanks guys, a job well done!

We continue to welcome visitors to our church, both informally and organised visits. Recently a coach party from Norwich Community Choir arrived. They were on a mystery tour of the area and we were their first stop. Despite not knowing where they were going they all appeared to thoroughly enjoy their visit but the chocolate brownies and coffee probably played a part in that too! They stayed for one and half hours and were fascinated by the history of the church, delighted by the secrets of the churchyard and have promised to return in the New year to perform a concert for us.

Over the last few weeks we have had two sales of bric-a-brac which have added to our funds and we continue to sell second hand books at the back of the church. These are proving to be ever popular so if visiting don't forget to take a look at the books on offer. If you have books which are in good condition and no longer needed we would love to take them. Please leave any donated books at the back of the church for us to put out. To arrange a guided tour of the church please email our churchwarden: eward.newallhall@btinternet.com

Linstead

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

I HEARD A VERY APT QUOTE ON THE wireless. When someone remarked on the drawing in of the nights, the old boy responded "Yes, it's getting later earlier". Which pretty well describes this time of the year.

WE CELEBRATED OUR PATRONAL festival in traditional manner, albeit slightly socially distanced. The presence of a wasps' nest round the back of the village hall meant that we had to decamp to the front. A surprising number of motorists felt that a horn toot would add to the proceedings. Perhaps we should make a habit of raising our profile! After the service, we enjoyed our barbecue and, the weather

being kind, we really felt that we were returning to normality. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event a success.

ONE OF THE CASUALTIES OF COVID has been the Village Fête which is held in aid of Village Hall funds. It was decided to sell some of the accumulated material at the Chediston car boot sale. It was highly successful and raised £279 for Village Hall funds. So thanks to all who took part, not least our grandson, Owen, who showed remarkable talents as a cake salesman.

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI HELD their annual Garden Party in August, at Grove Farm, by kind permission of Sarah Hackshall. The weather was kind and they tried their hand at that most vicious of games, croquet. If you think I'm joking, try playing against an experienced croquet-iste, you will find your ball being summarily dispatched into the next parish without any mercy or compunction being shown. However, I am assured that on this occasion, no blood was spilt. They meet next at Linstead Village Hall on Tuesday, September 14th at 2.30pm. This will be a members' meeting.

WE WILL BE WELCOMING OUR TEAM RECTOR, THE REVD DOMINIC DOBLE

To his first service at Linstead. Let us have a good turnout on this important occasion.

THE LINSTEAD HARVEST FESTIVAL

to be held on

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER at 6.30pm

THE OTHER GREAT HARVEST tradition is our Harvest Supper.

Linstead PCC
invites you to

THE LINSTEAD HARVEST SUPPER

To be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 16th October from 7.30pm.

£12.50 per person **Raffle**

In aid of church funds

To book your place, please contact Vicky Wilkinson (785167) or Malcolm Heath (785289)

Don't forget to bring your own liquid refreshment.

OUR SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER WILL be Matins at 9.30am on the 26th.

ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE:	FLOWERS & CLEANING
5th	No Service
12th	No Service
19th	No Service
26th	Mrs P Keable & Mr D Keable

Spexhall

Correspondents
Janet and David Sochon
davidsochon@gmail.com

The stalwart efforts prophesied in the last issue of the *Blyth Valley Times* came about and St Peter's was given a thorough "late spring" clean by a dedicated team of anti-cobwebbers, washers, dusters, and polishers so that the church positively shone for the Lammas festival service at the beginning of August. It was quite amazing to see how many cobwebs Fred and Rob removed and how much dust had gathered in 15 months of pandemic hibernation before being cleared by the hard-working PCC members. It was lovely to see our two youngest church members, Hebe and Clover, (can she really be three already?) presenting the soil, seed and bread during the service.

The churchyard was given its annual cut, despite the heavy rain which threatened operations, and trees shading the cremation tablets were removed to good effect. Hedge cutting is scheduled for this week. Grateful thanks are due to all those willing volunteers involved in the above activities; where should we be without them?

Keith (cycling) and Jane (pillion passenger-ing on a Harley Davidson!) are looking for sponsors for their "Ride and Stride" activities and will, no doubt, be well supported for their will power and courage respectively. Beware speeding cyclists, both pedalling and motorised around the benefice on 11th September.

It was really exciting to hold our first PCC meeting together as pandemic restrictions were eased. Yes, PCC meetings in Spexhall can be exciting, they are certainly always full of fun. Plans for the next few months were laid and ideas put forward as to how we shall raise some £8000 to repair the electrical apparatus in church… more details to follow.

It was a great joy to welcome Dominic and Liz to the benefice and we look forward to Dominic celebrating Harvest Festival with us in October.

Thorington

Correspondent Viv Burns

It seems very unseasonal to be having another summer with no art exhibitions, fetes, garden parties etc. Weekends seem strangely quiet without a visit somewhere involving lots of chat, a cup of tea and some cake and the purchase of raffle tickets. With this in mind I am sure we at Thorington are not alone in thinking of getting back to fund raising; trying to get members of the community to contribute their time and effort as well as to dig deep in their wallets. Hopefully these gatherings can begin again soon with a greater appreciation of the enjoyment that we feel in meeting and communal achievement.

Wenhaston

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

It really feels Autumnal now, doesn't it. I hope you have had a good Summer and maybe have had a holiday of some sort. It's good to get away for a few days and always nice to come home.

We are delighted to welcome Dominic and Liz to our Team, and the Induction service was very well planned and enjoyed. It was a privilege to be there.

We look forward to the future with Dominic at the helm. He will take his first service at Wenhaston on 29th August when we will host a Team Service. All welcome.

Our Harvest Festival is on 26th September, when we will welcome the members of Wenhaston Methodist Church to join us.

***A plea from the Flower arrangers**:* If anyone in the village is a keen flower arranger, the church ladies would be very grateful for more people for the flower rota. Please contact Jenny Jeffrey, 01502 478815.

Don't forget the Quiz on October 22nd. Entry forms will be in the Post Office in due course.

Our Services for the month of September are as follows:- 5th, Team Service at Halesworth at 10am; 12th, Morning Worship, 10am; 19th, Pause for Thought, 10am; 26th, Harvest Festival, 10am.

JUMBLE SALE

Due to many of my helpers being unable to help this time, and the problem with disposing of all the leftover goods, I have decided to cancel the Jumble Sale planned for 18th September.

WENHASTON MOTHER'S UNION

We are all pleased that at last we are able to have our monthly meetings again and we will now meet regularly in the Methodist Church School Room on the second Wednesday of every month, commencing in September.

We are extremely grateful to the Methodists in the village for allowing us to use the School Room as we are now unable to use the Church Room and the Village Hall is unfortunately too large for our small group of 15!

We are extremely pleased that our Speaker for our first meeting is going to be the Revd Margaret Rennard, who is going to talk to us about her time as a prison chaplain and it will be lovely to have her with us.

Anyone who would like to join us at the September meeting will be very welcome to meet Margaret and to join us for a cup of tea!

Margaret G (01502 478378)

WEA – Back on the Road again in Wenhaston!

Having been rudely interrupted in March 2020, the WEA is back with face-to-face learning in Wenhaston Village Hall. And we are fortunate to again have the knowledgeable and entertaining Stephen Jeffery-Poulter, this time tutoring on the subject of "An Historic Tour of East Anglia." In his own summary he says:

From gentlewoman Celia Fiennes accounts of her excursions in the late 17th century, via Daniel Defoe's best-selling book 'Tours Through the Whole Island of Great Britain' in the 1720s, to the enormously popular 20th century 'King's England Guides' of Arthur Mee this course charts more than 300 years of change in the landscape and settlements of the historic Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk. Using the original observations and recommendations of travellers to this area in the past combined with a wealth of period paintings, antiquarian engravings, vintage postcards and modern photographs this will be a fascinating and unusual perspective on the history of East Anglia.

The course comprises seven two hour sessions starting at 10am on Friday 1st October. A break for half term falls on Friday 29th October and the last session will be on Friday 19th November. You can book online at www.wea.org.uk or by telephoning 0300 303 3464 quoting reference no C2228380. The cost is £55.30. (For further details, contact wenhaston.branch@wea.ac.uk or tel 01502 478977).

And now a note from the WEA. Founded in 1903, the Workers' Educational Association is a charity dedicated to bringing high-quality, professional education into the heart of communities. With the support of nearly 2,000 volunteers, 2,000 tutors and over 5,200 members, it delivers friendly, accessible and enjoyable courses for adults from all walks of life. No previous knowledge or qualifications are required to join this course.

So why not get on-line or telephone and book your place now to join a friendly band of students. Looking forward to seeing you there!

WENHASTON WALKS

On Tuesday 7th September a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. We hope to sample some blackberries *en route*!

This is the only organised walk for September.

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wissett

Correspondent Nick Evans
01986 872372
nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

Written diaries have been continually messed up by Covid, and so we hope that it will not be too painful to ask you to spoil another page for a different reason: very soon after the last number went to print we had to put back the date of Harvest Festival and Supper to Friday 24th September at 6.30pm. Our Rector, the Revd Dominic Doble, will conduct the service. Please book your places at supper through Nick and Maggie, as above. Continuing the autumn/harvest theme, on Sunday 26th, perhaps after you have had a good lunch in The Plough, pop across to enjoy the decorations in the church, and then pour into the village hall for Cream Teas from 3pm, and stay on for Evensong at 6.30pm, sung by the team choir, a very welcome return of this traditional service.

Another welcome return was the first ringing practice since March 2019, not yet great ringing, but lovely to hear our six little bells again. And how shall we praise enough the Quarter Peal in Halesworth, apparently from scratch, for Dominic's inauguration? A great overture to an inspiring service of thanks and welcome, the start of a new era.

On 14th August we were fortunate to have the full, musical and liturgical Blessing of the marriage of Rachel Sparkes, whose father is Jon Sparkes, and Isai Agon. The marriage itself was long planned for Wissett, several times postponed through Covid, and finally, as a consequence of Brexit, had to be conducted in Spain, where Rachel and Isai live.

Gift Day is Saturday 11th September: please, if you can, come in to place your gift on the altar, and help the church to keep going; fair weather would encourage us to come, and would also be a boon to the cyclists on the Historic Churches Bike Ride the same day. Mary Pester, 01986 835869, has taken over as organiser for Wissett, and has details such as the list of participating churches – almost every church in fact, and sponsorship forms. Look at the list, check your map, and set off on your personal Tour des Eglises to raise money for Wissett, and all Suffolk churches.

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Halesworth Heritage *happening*

Halesworth Heritage Open Days - 11th/12th & 18th/19th September 2021

Celebrate Halesworth's heritage with trails, talks, open days, displays, drama... and more.

Halesworth Heritage *happening* celebrates the towns heritage and this year it's expanded to Walpole and Holton in order to include some fascinating public buildings holding events and talks. In previous years, the celebration has been of our built environment with the opening of buildings not usually seen by the public. This year the theme is Edible England and lots of the events are outdoors with a programme of guided and self-guided walks.

The opening weekend, 11th and 12th September sees *Puritan Food* at Walpole Old Chapel where you can read the recipes and taste the food that put the fire in the belly of the religious independents who worshipped there. The fiercely 'independent' congregation in Cookley and Walpole first 'gathered' in 1649 and the chapel was constructed in c1690, by converting an existing Suffolk farmhouse. It has been very little altered since then.

Over the weekend 18th and 19th September **The Cut** will be Halesworth Heritage happening's HQ and will host events throughout the two days. The main auditorium will have a continuous stream of short films and performances. With a play reading of *The Lover* by Open Space Theatre, David Wollweber with a talk *on The Lincolne Letters* (following on from the book launch at Two Rivers Book Festival the previous weekend), Jenny Hall will be covering *Food and Shakespeare: Comedy, Disgust & Delight*. Poet Dean Parkin introduces *Halesworth Whispers*, and you can see Living Art from Beth Keys-Holloway and hear Halesworth Community Choir.

St Mary's Church is hosting a wonderful range of events on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th **Celebrating Mediaeval Heritage with Flowers and Music.** With an all-day flower Festival, a family friendly heritage trail and quiz, and musical interludes from an organ recital with Jason Busby, to **Auroriens** with Vetta Wise, and 17th/18th century music from France, Germany, and England on period instruments with **The Rococos**. Sunday 19th sees a special Harvest Festival Service. There's a self-guided tour *The Argentine Trail* and more.

This year we're including **Halesworth Airfield Museum** where Richie Pymar will be giving a talk at 11am on 18th & 19th September and **Holton Post Mill** will be open for tours on Sunday 19th September. You can also visit **Kaliwoods**, a five-acre woodland in Holton and see an extant men's urinals from when the site was part of the RAF hospital.

Halesworth Museum is always worth a visit and during the Festival you can catch *No Ordinary Joe, No Ordinary Kennedy* an award-winning radio play from INK on both days.

On Saturday at 11am, author **Annie Garthwaite** will be discussing her new newly published historical novel *Cecily* and signing copies at **Halesworth Bookshop**, and there are more events on all weekend at this wonderful independent bookshop.

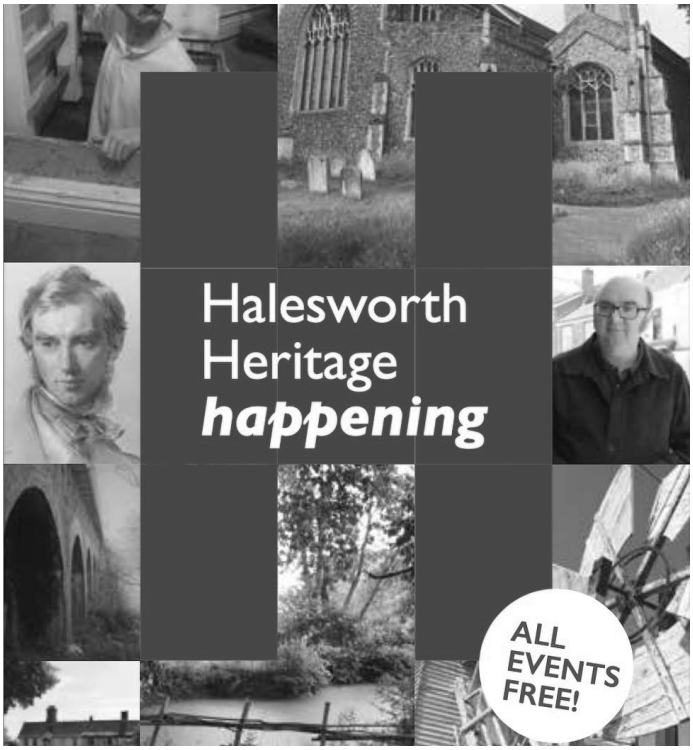
James Hewett of the Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway Society will lead guided walks around part of the Halesworth Millennium Green (the largest such Green in the country), highlighting the industrial archaeology of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries: the 1761 Blyth Navigation and the 1879 narrow gauge Halesworth to Southwold Railway on both days at 12pm.

Halesworth Library will be mounting a display of local history and records and Black Dog Antiques in the Market Place, a former merchant's house, will be showing a display of documents, photographs, and artefacts, some recovered during recent restoration work.

There are many more tours and talks covering the Ancient House Bistro carvings on Sunday morning with coffee and cake, Buildings and Gardens – stories of Halesworth, Heritage Trees in Halesworth, The Hooker and Malt Trail, and a tour of Halesworth's hives with a Bee Trail.

All festival events are free which has been made possible with the generous support of Halesworth Town Council and our sponsors, Halesworth Print Finishers, Huus, and Micropress. Donations for events during Heritage Open Days in Halesworth are gratefully received, so please look out for our donation boxes. Pre-booking is not available, and places will be allocated on a 'first come' basis. Some events will be weather dependent, so fingers crossed for good weather!

Search for events here: www.heritageopendays.org.uk and keep an eye on Facebook - @halesworthheritageopendays



Celebrating our Mediaeval Heritage with Flowers and Music
St Mary's Church Halesworth

Saturday 18th September: 9am - 5pm

All day: Flower Festival Competition - Theme: *Edible England*, includes children's entries, *Garden in a tray*. A chance to vote for *People's Choice*;

Self guided tour - *The Argentine Trail*, exploring the life and achievements of Sir William Argentine (audio podcast, approx 25 mins, available via 'phone);

Family friendly Heritage Trail and Quiz exploring church history from the outside of the building;

10am - 12pm: Musical interludes;

10am and 11am: 'Music to Sooth the Spirit' : The vocal consort, *Auroriens*, directed by Vetta Wise, will sing 'a cappella', - from the mystic music of the 13th century to the evocative harmonies of the present day;

10.30am and 11.30am: Our organist at St Mary's, Jason Busby, will be playing *Hymns & Preludes for Harvest - and A journey through the ages:* exploring our musical heritage;

2pm: Argentine Trail with guide (approx 45mins);

3pm: A screening of *A Moment in Time*, a drama based on the events of 1415 and how they impacted on the Argentine Dynasty (approx. 50 mins).

Sunday 19th September:

10am: Harvest Festival Service. We hope to welcome all, but numbers attending may need to be limited.

There will be an opportunity to join via Facebook or Zoom - please check on St Mary's Church Halesworth Facebook page *(St Mary's Church Halesworth Suffolk),* or notices outside church.

11.30am - 3pm: Heritage and Flower Festival activities continue, as listed above for Saturday.

3pm: A recital of 17th/18th century music from France, Germany and England, given by *The Rococos* on period instruments.

Have we discovered a second 'likeness' of Sir William Argentine?

St Mary's contribution to the Heritage Open Days, this month *(programme below)* includes a trail of Sir William Argentine which will take you on a tour of seven stations, inside and outside the church, ending at the pipes end of the organ, where photographs are displayed of the carvings that have been hidden from plain sight, since 1889, when the organ was installed in the chancel. The carvings are on the inner surface of the pillars and arch, overlooking what was the first Lady Chapel, then became the Argentine Chantry Chapel before adapting to the present purpose of corridor to the vestry and office.

Following recent research, it was time for an audit of the carvings. Once again, Jason Busby rose to the challenge, and having almost completed the task, happened upon a carving, so far overlooked, near the bottom of the East pillar.

Examining the photo *(right),* do we think this could be Sir William, a man who lived to 69 and died in 1419? Interestingly there is a carving, head only, on the arch over the door that leads to the tower (c1415) which has similar features. Both heads are damaged in the lower part of the face - or could that be a disfigurement suffered in battle?

An audio podcast to accompany the trail (requiring phone and earpieces) will be ready to preview at the beginning of September. Find the link on our website: www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth.org.uk

Finally, we would be most grateful for contributions for the harvest display, which this year will need to be set up on Friday 17th September, after midday.

Ann Wilkinson, for Friends of St Mary's, Halesworth

LOCAL NEWS

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

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Friends of St Mary's - A little bit of history
The puzzle in the former de Argentein Lady Chapel in St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Over the course of three and a half centuries (c1066-1424), the de Argenteins established themselves in at least twelve counties across the South and East of England. In Suffolk they are associated with some ten towns and villages, of which the Manors of Halesworth and Dame Marjory's in Halesworth form part.

Positioned on the upper inside of the archway which formerly led into the de Argentein Lady Chapel, is an array of ten sculptured stone shields. They are enhanced with carved foliage, and have been hidden from view by the installation of an organ since the latter part of the 19th century. What they signify in this position has remained a puzzle.

Proffered here is an hypothesis, of how the key to unlocking the essence of this mystery may lie with a young man buried in the Chancel - Richard Assheton (1622-1641). Today, still hanging on the chancel south wall is his monument in the form of a painted oak panel, on which his arms and an inscription are painted. For his father Ralph the arms of Ashton quartering Barton are displayed, and for his mother Katheren the twenty-four quartering's of Brereton. The inscription in part tells us that, "he died at the house of his worthy kinsman James Assheton the Rector of St Mary's".

It is to the Brereton ancestry we turn here; over the course of six or so centuries this family established themselves in Cheshire becoming widespread and influential. A focus on the first two rows of the Brereton coat of arms has been adopted, as these correlate in timescale with that of the de Argentein dynasty. As a result of early important marriages, they fall into three groupings, those of the Earls of Chester which are derived from the alleged marriage of Sir Ralph Brereton to Ada the widow of Henry Lord Hastings (died c1250). The second set are of the Malpas-Egerton group which are derived from the marriage of Sir William III Brereton to Ellen Egerton (1353) heiress to the Barony of Malpas. The third grouping relates to the marriage of Sir William IV, Brereton's son, another William (d1415 before his father) to Alice Corbet who became heiress to Orreby property.

The narrative revealed by the Brereton ancestry has some remarkable connections to the iconography represented in the sculptured stone shields. But, first a word on the carved foliage, this directs the viewer to classify how the shields are read.

So, for example, the initial two shields are enhanced with the same heart shaped leaf motif; the first shows a representation of the Saxon Crown with three uprights on a simple band, from which there is a descending arrow. The second portrays a pair of crossed keys, wards upmost and outwards, the handles joined. (In art the Papal keys are shown joined at the handle). Ada's father David Earl of Huntingdon was the younger brother of two Scottish Kings, Malcolm IV (The Maiden) and William I (The Lion), they were the great grandchildren of Malcolm III Canmore and St Margaret. St Margaret of course was the granddaughter of the Saxon King Edmund (Ironside). Thus, these shields can be read, descended from a Saxon Crown holding the Papal keys.

The third shield is embellished with thistle leaf and flower base (for Scotland) and intended to stand alone. It shows a pair of swords in saltire, blades uppermost and unsheathed. Robert the Bruce, King of Scots descended from the same line as Ada, he triumphed at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, thereby restoring independence to Scotland. His opponent, King Edward II survived; Edward's bodyguard Sir Giles II de Argentein was put to death.

Strawberry leaves adorn four of the shields; the first depicts a crown with three uprights alternating with a small (unidentified) motif on a simple band, under which is a half wheel, (no knives). Posited here is that this is not for St Catherine, but for Katheren Brereton. Strawberry leaved shields two and three show a Saltire (for Scotland) and a Harp (for Ireland), offering her bona fides. The fourth of these shows as yet an unidentified coat of arms.

Two shields are ornamented with the bay laurel - an evergreen, symbolically the victors' crown. The first illustrates a Bishops Mitre with two fanons and jeweled, the second an empty Latin Cross. For centuries the Venables sponsored the Breretons who took Holy Orders. The notable English prelate William of Waynflete (1395-1486), was the son of William of Wainfleet and Margery Brereton.

The tenth shield is bedecked with Palm fronds, the Martyrs' Palm, long used to symbolise Christian victory over death. It shows a comb of the type used by wool-carders, which is associated with the scourging of St Lawrence, invoking one of the most revered saints in Christendom since the 4th century.

There is one further shield on this archway, thought to be 15th century, it connects directly to Katheren in that it is also adorned with Strawberry leaves. Displayed on the shield are the de Argentein coat of arms, differenced (Heraldic device to show illegitimacy) with three ears of wheat in each of the top two cups, the third remains covered. Katheren appears to be connecting the Breretons with the de Argenteins, possibly indicating that William's mother was a Brereton. Or perhaps a Brereton widow?

The Brereton motto, *Opitulante Deo* translates to read "With the aid of God".

Dee Scotcher, Member of The Heraldry Society

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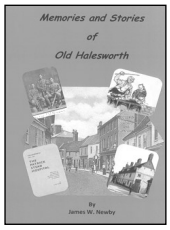

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