

CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE 2023



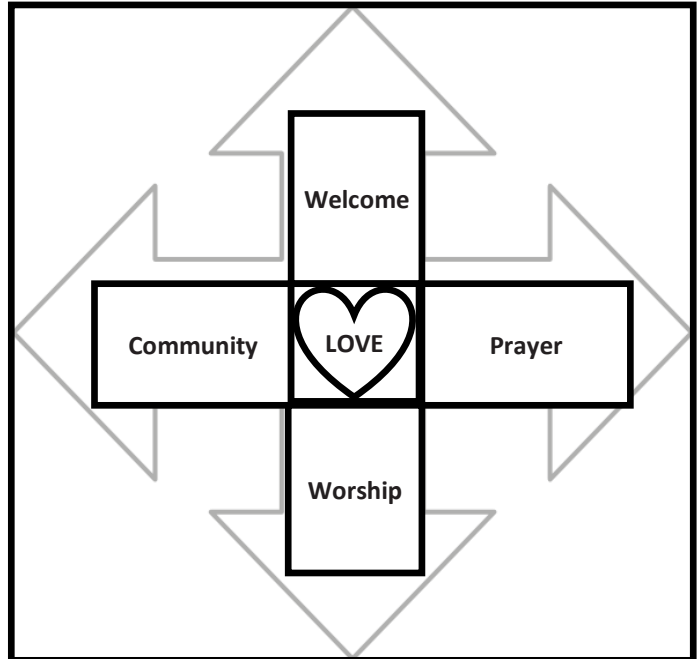
*A review of the
Climate Action
Conference
held in St Mary's
Halesworth
from September 29th
to October 1st 2023
can be found on
page 8 of this issue.*



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**BVTM TEAM COUNCIL/
PCC TREASURERS' MEETING**

The next BVTM Team Council meeting
will be a combined meeting with
PCC Treasurers, to be held on
Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm
St Peter's Room, St Peter's Church, Holton

Blyth Valley Churches
Service of Remembrance
and Thanksgiving
Sunday 5th November at 6pm
St Mary's, Halesworth
All welcome

Remembering the departed:
Where we give thanks for and remember departed
loved ones, friends and family.



November 2023 Lectionary

for Traditional and Holy Communion only.

Please refer to the Lectionary for other services e.g. Daily Office (Morning Prayer).

Sunday 5th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Twenty-second After Trinity (Green)

Philippians 1: 3 - 11
Matthew 18: 21 - end

Holy Communion (NRSV) – All Saints (White or Gold)

Revelation 7: 9 - end
Matthew 5: 1 - 12

Sunday 12th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Twenty-third After Trinity (Green)

Philippians 3: 17 - end
Matthew 22: 15 - 22

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Remembrance Sunday (Red)

Amos 5: 18 - 24
Matthew 25: 1 - 13

Sunday 19th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Twenty-fourth After Trinity (Green)

Colossians 1: 3 - 12
Matthew 9: 18 - 26

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Second Before Advent (Red)

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 - end
Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Sunday 26th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Next Before Advent (Green)

Jeremiah 23: 5 - 8
John 6: 5 - 14

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Christ the King (Red)

Ezekiel 34: 11 - 24
Matthew 25: 31 - end

Worship in the Blyth Valley in November 2023

| CW – Year A Continuous CW | 5th CW – All Saints, White or Gold BCP – 2nd After Trinity, Green | 12th CW – Remembrance, Red BCP – 23rd After Trinity, Green | 19th CW – Second Before Advent, Red BCP – 24th After Trinity, Green | 26th CW – Christ the King, Red BCP - Next Before Advent, Green |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Halesworth St Mary | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am TEAM Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Remembering Loved Ones Dominic | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 2.30pm Procession 3pm Remembrance Dominic | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Linda 6pm Evensong Dominic | 8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason 6pm Evensong Dominic |
| St Peter Group | | | | |
| Holton St Peter | | 10.50am Remembrance Memorial then Church Dominic | 10am Iona Worship Gini | 10am Holy Communion Vic |
| Wenhaston St Peter | | 10.50am Remembrance at Memorial, then Church Win | 10am Holy Communion Alison A | 10am Pause for Thought Alison C |
| Bramfield St Andrew | | 10.50am Remembrance Jason | | |
| Blyford All Saints | | | | |
| Thorington St Peter | | | | 10am Morning Prayer Linda |
| St Andrew Group | | | | |
| Wissett St Andrew | | 10.50am Remembrance Gini | 10am Holy Communion Dominic | 10am Breakfast Church Alison A |
| Chediston St Mary | | 10.50am Remembrance Memorial, then Church Veronica | | 10am Morning Prayer Gini |
| Spexhall St Peter | | 10.50am Remembrance David | | |
| Linstead St Margaret | | 9.30am Remembrance Dominic | | 10am Holy Communion David |
| St Michael Group | | | | |
| Cookley St Michael | | | 9.30am Traditional Communion Jonathan | |
| Heveningham St Margaret | | 10.50am Remembrance Vic | | |
| Huntingfield St Mary | | 10.50am Remembrance at Memorial Alison A | | 10am Holy Communion Dominic |
| Walpole St Mary | | 10.50am Remembrance Diana | | |

Other Regular Services: 8am and 6pm Tuesday to Saturday: Daily Prayer, St Mary's Halesworth
 10am Tuesdays: Café Church by Zoom; 10am Wednesdays: Holy Communion, St Mary's Halesworth
 9.30am Thursdays: Morning Prayer, St Andrew's Bramfield

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

NOVEMBER 2023

5th The Revd Robert Soanes HC

12th War Memorial, 10.50am

Followed by U S in St Peter's

19th The Revd Robin Searles

26th The Revd Iain McKillop

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

(unless stated otherwise)

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Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Please enquire about our Service times and details



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,

from Tuesdays to Saturdays

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

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092

Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304

Passcode - 825686

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th 11am Gathered Worship & Communion

Tuesday 7th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 10th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 12th 10.45am Gathered Worship
3pm Worship at Bramfield Chapel

Tuesday 14th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Wed 15th 7pm Church Meeting

Friday 16th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 19th 11am Gathered Worship

Tuesday 21st 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Tuesday 21st 2pm Elders' Meeting

Friday 24th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 26th 11am Gathered Worship

Tuesday 28th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 30th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761

jon@sermons.me.uk

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira

(for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 776-044-1926,

Passcode 811885



Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

The Revd Alison Alder at:
alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk
or

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

From the Rector...

I wonder why it is that we remember in November? It can't just be because it rhymes so well:

'Remember! Remember! The fifth of November!'

Do the longer evenings with a book, an open fire, a hot chocolate, or spirit, shared with family and friends lend themselves to story telling and reminiscence? Is it that as the season comes around again we realise who is no longer here?

Long before Christianity came to our shores, the death of the year turned our ancestors' minds to the death of their honoured and loved ones. Indeed, as food became scarce and the cold became insufferable, awareness of their own mortality would have been pressed upon them. For one reason or another, the first and second of the month have become Christian festivals: All Saints and All Souls respectively. As our 6pm *Remembering Loved Ones* service on November 5th, with lighting of candles, will no doubt prove, these festivals resonate deeply with our otherwise buried sense of loss and grief. Do please make a note of this date in your diary and come along if you think it would be helpful to you. One of our local Funeral Homes may be inviting you to a similar ceremony later in the year.

You are, of course, also welcome to Armistice at 11am on the 11th of the eleventh month in the Thoroughfare, Halesworth. Together with the British Legion, we will again be marking the time when the politicians decided they would neatly end the carnage of the, so called, Great War. Then at various locations across the valley, people will gather at 10.50am (2.30pm in Halesworth) to walk to, or attend, ceremonies at war memorials, or in church, or both. These acts of remembrance add the names of those killed in action in World War II and offensive and defensive military interventions since.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them'.

As these events and the work of The Pear Tree Centre and other organisations in the town attest, a problem shared is a problem halved. Death is usually a shock even if a diagnosis and subsequent decline have presaged it with some determination. It can be made all the more harrowing through lack of experience. Most of us spend most of our lives free from grief. We may have lost a pet as children, and

grandparent in early adulthood and a parent or two in middle age. Time was when most families would have suffered the death of a child or two; most streets an adult in a pit, down the mills or to tuberculosis. Yes, we often see multiple deaths on screen in boat, 'quake or train, but it can still shock when it's the local biker's fatal collision or our police officer's suicide.

Being with others and sharing our experiences, whether in a spiritual context or not can help. So, too, can being prepared. It may seem grim, but letting families and friends know whether we want to be revived, or to decline radical intervention, can help them help us in our time of need. Knowing what we may have wanted in our funeral, cremation or burial can take a weight of decision making of our loved ones' minds. If you are caring for someone who is dying, make sure you look after yourself. Usually, people take their last breath in their own time, either once every one is with them or when you pop to the toilet. When the unthinkable happens, do get in touch with a funeral home of your choice at the earliest opportunity. They are there to help arrange the details of funerals, whether you come to us as church, or go to one of our excellent officiant colleagues. Don't worry, it is not unusual for it to take some time for those feelings that they are still around, or just in the next room, to become less insistent.

Finally, just as our forebears gathered to remember their lost, they also remembered together - through their spirituality and faith - that the hard times would pass. They, with the church, lit candles of hope, feasting and celebrating in the face of cold darkness. Do join us for all, or any, of our November services to reminisce with tears and laughter, as together we warmly look forward to a brighter future.

Dominic

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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

In last month's 'News from Sister Churches' I gave some information about my three month sabbatical, much of it spent in Africa. I visited Zimbabwe and Kenya, as well as an extended stay in Uganda and indicated opportunities to hear and see something of the wonderful things God was doing will come up.

I can now give you a date to hear (to some extent see/experience) more of what was involved: Tuesday 21st November, 7.30pm at the URC. I promise inspiration, moving accounts of God at work in sometimes horrendously difficult circumstances and second-hand culture shock. Also, uplifting worship in the Ugandan style! Please invite friends and come along with them.

Church life includes the home groups well under way, the children and families work re-started and the new Children and Families Worker will soon be in place.

Since returning from Africa, I find myself drawn, often, to Paul's prayer in Ephesians chapter 1. Having reminded believers (us) of the truth of Gospel and that we, as a result, have a guaranteed inheritance (v.13-14) he goes on to pray that our faith – and relationship with God will deepen: That the eyes of our hearts may be opened. We are encouraged to spiritual growth.

May that indeed be our prayer for one another.


Blessings

Jon

Revd Jon Sermon,


Minister of Halesworth & Bramfield URC
and North Lowestoft URC






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SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

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

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What has your Team Vicar been up to?

As I am writing this, the Holy Land is once again gripped by turmoil and seems further away than ever from any kind of resolution. Recriminations and justifications come from all sides – everyone has had enough. If it is ever possible that anger can stop meeting anger, there may be hope of better

times ahead. At the moment that feels a long way off. This is the time of year we remember the millions of people who have died in war and conflicts around the world and continue to do so. I have faith that prayer keeps the light of hope alive in the darkest of times and places.

Closer to home, we are in the middle of a flood which seems to have taken us all by surprise – another reminder that we never know what is around the corner.

I spent the first few days of October deliberately alone and quiet: reflecting, reading, praying in confusion about what my ministry might look like after my diagnosis of MS. It was well worth the effort. I was reminded why I was so excited about being a Team Vicar here in the first place to work in the margins between our churches and communities. And while I have lots of ideas for new things and how existing things might be done differently, there is enough to be done bedding in the things I am already doing.

In terms of events, the Climate Action Conference was a great success. Hundreds of people visited the exhibition and

all three days of the conference. Ideas were shared and new connections made with numerous plans being made for future activities and events.

The Halesworth Scarecrow Fortnight saw a Mad Hatter's Tea Party set up in St Mary's with some ambitious scenery painting happening during Tots' Time. We are hoping to increase our offering to children and young people: continuing our Tots' Time every week at St Mary's, Halesworth and holding various events in our village churches especially linked to wildlife in our churchyards. We are all part of some sort of family and we are planning to offer monthly family services in Halesworth with a more relaxed atmosphere and contributions from all ages!

Christmas plans are underway and we are starting in November with the Halesworth Christmas Lights event – Santa Claus will be visiting St Mary's Halesworth again this year. We will also be entertained by the Pearly Singers at our Community Lunch on November 29th.

As ever, with blessings

Gini

**FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS,
PLEASE VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY
WEBSITE:**

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

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

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



You are invited to

“The Uganda Experience”

(Zimbabwe & Kenya as well this year)

Jon Sermon – URC Minister will be reporting
on his recent visit with the charity:



Vibrant worship,
culture shock,
inspiring stories of
God at work in the
schools, churches
orphanage and
communities

**Tue 21 Nov
7.30pm**

@ Halesworth URC

Quay St, Halesworth IP19 8EP jon@sermons.me.uk

See Mutual Encouragement in action!



St Mary's Church, Halesworth
Welcome Wednesdays
10am
Holy
Communion

10.45am

Coffee Time

Hot drinks, cakes and friendly chat



LAST WEDNESDAY

EVERY MONTH 12.30PM

COMMUNITY LUNCH



2pm-3pm Tots' Time

Fun for under-5s and a warm
welcome to their accompanying grown-ups!

For info please contact the Revd Gini on **01986 875541**

Halesworth Climate Action Conference review

Halesworth's first ever Climate Action Conference took place from September 29th to October 1st, with enormous success. It comprised a week-long exhibition showcasing local groups either mitigating climate change or scrutinising development that challenged climate change, to which local schools were invited to for a day; a panel discussion in the 'Any Questions' format; a day-long conference with experts in diverse fields sharing their experience; and finally, a 'What next' meeting on Sunday, in which a committed group of people proposed three future strategies.

Over 200 people came to the Friday Night Panel discussion. Over 300 people have watched the live recording on YouTube. Over 100 people came to the Saturday Conference and our website (www.halesworthash.com) had over 2,000 hits over the weekend. Both the Town Council and Blyth Valley Churches (the joint organisers) were delighted with the response, and are already planning a follow up series of events.

Under the church arches, running for a week, there were 25 individual exhibitors, showcasing local projects and a science corner. Some groups met up for the first time and connected. It was creative, with information displayed on bicycle wheels (by the Millennium Green which encompasses Sustrans Route 1), and an exhibition of photographs together with a looped film by Bill Jackson. A White Elephant encompassed Sizewell development, and LionLink's map displayed the potential effect of diverse energy developments along the Suffolk Coast. Swift calls could be heard echoing around the space. Free trees were given away by Halesworth Town Council, who were also creatively promoting 're-used banners turned into bags'. The Repair Café mended and sewed throughout the week.

On the Friday, over 100 school children and staff were creatively entertained and challenged by the Revd Alison Alder for a day.

Aided by much media attention, the church was full for the Friday night "Any Questions Panel". It was a lively discussion with "an august and impressive panel" as described by the Bishop of Edmundsbury, who Chaired with grace and knowledge. As he said at the end, the audience had made their feelings felt in many different ways.

The panel included the Secretary of State for Environment and our local MP, Dr Thérèse Coffey and Adrian Ramsay, co-leader of the Green Party and standing as the Green Party candidate for the new Waveney Valley constituency. These two enjoyed a few spats particularly over high E.coli count in the Blyth river water.

Thérèse Coffey (who had earlier visited the nearby Holton Pits as she'd been supportive of their successful bid for Community Ownership Funding) praised the local community for their work to save this open space.

The Revd Dominic Doble opened the conference, setting the tone, urging us to agree to disagree with an open mind and kindness and learn from each other's diverse views.

Professor Peter Hobson was replaced at the last minute by Darren Tansley from Essex Wildlife Trust, fresh from discussing climate change with farmers along the Stour Valley.

Eight questions were distilled from many submitted. The panel included: Dr Thérèse Coffey (*Secretary of State for Environment, Conservative MP for Suffolk Coastal*); Darren Tansley (*Essex Wildlife Trust*); Adrian Ramsay (*Co-leader of the Green Party*); Adrian currently leads MCS Charitable Foundation which advocates for renewable energy and green homes; Professor Catherine Rowett (*County Councillor for West Depwade, former Member of the European Parliament for East of England and campaigner for solar in Churches and community energy schemes*); David Kemp (*Environment Agency*), Coastal Team Leader (*coastal flood warning and resilience*) "*The Eastern Front of Climate Change*"; Richard Rout (*Suffolk County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment*); Josiah Meldrum (*Co-founder of Hodmedods, a business that supports farmers as they bring diversity to their arable crop rotations*).

The whole conference was captured graphically by Rebecca Osbourne. Concentrating for over six hours, she captured each speaker's message (with their portrait), in remarkable drawings.

It was an inspiring event for Halesworth Town Council and Blyth Valley Churches. It was important for the community to hear these options, to engage in this vital and life-changing conversation, to feel a part and to be informed.

Present at the conference were two representatives from Wymondham, who relayed that they're planning just such a conference for their town.

What next?

Out of the conference, three distinct groups have formed.

1. Halesworth Ash (An umbrella group), co-ordinated by Halesworth Town Council and Blyth Valley Churches to oversee future events and distribute information.
2. Halesworth Community Energy Group Steering Group has formed. Our aims would be to engage the community in measuring the thermal efficiency of our homes, developing plans to de-carbonise housing stock. We would work with existing groups in the area and take forward the environmental aspects of the neighbourhood plan. We are talking thermal imaging, insulation, air-source heat pumps. Interested? Please contact Chris. Details on: www.halesworthash.com
3. An Open Space Group is to meet with Alan Miller to link the open spaces initiatives together and share knowledge and expertise. If anyone is interested in joining these groups or wish to start other initiatives, please let us know. We have work to do!



ASH Conference Panel

Review submitted by Halesworth Town Council



HALESWORTH DEMENTIA CARERS' FUND



100+ Club draw

The 100+ Club now has 109 members. Because of this we are able to fund very generous monthly prizes of £100, £70 and £30. This month, the lucky ticket numbers are 1st prize, 102; 2nd prize 42 and 3rd prize 90. If you would like to join the club and have a chance at winning one of these wonderful prizes, please call Anna on 07721842802.

November Film

Our film at The Cut for November is "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry", starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. It tells the delightful story of Harold Fry who sets off on a 500 walk to Berwick on Tweed to see his old friend Queenie who is very seriously ill. Along the way he meets all sorts of interesting characters. The film will be shown on Wednesday 15th November, beginning at 2pm. Admission is by £5

donation. In addition to our usual raffle we will also have a Christmas stall, selling a variety of Christmas goods and decorations.

HDCF has to raise thousands of pounds annually to support families with members suffering from dementia. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of so many people Halesworth is now one of the best "dementia friendly" towns in the country. We are so grateful to everyone who supports us in so many ways, and our 100+ Club and film shows are so important in helping us to continue with our work.

If you would like further information on our work please contact Alison at: secretary@halesworthdementia.co.uk or: info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

John Wood

Mr William (Billy) Ronald Griffiths

The family of William Ronald Griffiths, a well-known and loved character formerly of Huntingfield and Bungay who died on July 13th, aged 96 years, would like to thank all who attended the service in St Mary's Huntingfield on August 4th. Thank you to those who gave donations in his memory. The total raised for the James Paget University Hospital (The Stroke Unit) amounted to £622.

BVTIMES DELIVERY ROUND VACANCY IN HALESWORTH

An immediate vacancy has arisen for a door-to-door delivery person for the monthly *Blyth Valley Times* magazine. The round consists of **11 Halesworth** properties in London Road, Highfield Road, Babington Drive, Andrew Johnson Way, Lansbury Road and Aldergrove Close.

If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer to take on the deliveries for this round, please telephone Carolyn on 01986 875941/07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

Thank you!

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LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN OCTOBER

BAPTISMS

Leo & Edie Leftley at St Peter's Holton

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Gweneth Woolnough at Blyford

Keith Berry at Holton



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

Can anyone spare one or two Wednesday mornings (from 10am - 11.30am) each month to come and help us at Waveney Foodbank in St Mary's church Halesworth, please?

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

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Dedicated duo bid farewell



A husband-and-wife team who have helped raise tens of thousands of pounds for the Pear Tree Fund are retiring after together clocking up nearly 45 years' service with the charity. Ted and Jane Edwards stepped down as trustees of the much-loved Halesworth-based charity at the end of September.

Jane set up the charity in 1989 alongside fellow district nurses Nikki Sawkins and Barbara Kell after recognising that the families of patients who wished to die at home needed extra support. Originally called the Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund, it provided additional care in the last days of life so that people could die in the place of their choice.

The charity expanded in 2020 when it opened the Pear Tree Centre, on land next to Cutler's Hill Surgery, which offers information, support and advice to patients with a life-changing diagnosis, as well as their families. The development was made possible thanks to a successful £900,000 fundraising drive, with the centre now welcoming around 550 people each month.


Jane's husband Ted joined the trustees in 2012 after retiring from his job as an accountant. After developing a business case for the Pear Tree Centre, he became the project chair and helped to overcome several challenges to steer the construction work to completion.

Despite retiring, the duo remain passionate supporters of the charity, and are urging the community to continue raising money to help meet its £280,000 annual running costs.

Jane commented, "The work the charity does is incredibly important. Living with long term illness can be very lonely, financially draining and hard on family and carers. The centre is there to inform and support, as well as providing a much-needed venue to meet others, share experiences or just have fun.

"Dying in your own bed at home with the family around you is the preference of most people. That is why the extra practical support and care the Pear Tree Fund provides is so important – it can help make a sad experience emotionally fulfilling and less exhausting."

For more information about the Pear Tree Fund or to support the charity, visit www.peartreefund.org



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

Have you or someone in your family experienced a bereavement?

If so, the Pear Tree Fund can support you.

We offer a wide range of free services from the Pear Tree Centre, our tranquil and welcoming base nestled in the heart of Halesworth.

Services include:

Wellbeing and bereavement support:

- A listening ear, emotional support and counselling
- Complementary therapies
- Activities such as art therapy and cookery for the bereaved
- Nature-based 'elders wellbeing' programme
- Carers' support, including young carers

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

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


Support groups and talks from local services



We support anyone living in East Suffolk and neighbouring parts of Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk.

Find us at the

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web peartreefund.org

  @ThePearTreeFund

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

Local support when you need it most

MORSBAGS

Morsbags are created from recycled, donated fabric by volunteers and given away free. The initiative was founded in England by Claire Morsman in 2007, and are now sewn internationally. To date 512,270 have been made thus saving the world from 256,135,000 plastic bags. (Every Morsbags replaces at least 500 plastic bags).

If readers have any fabric which could be donated to make into Morsbags, this will be very gratefully received. It is really important that we continue with this project which is for everyone and not just the great and the glorious!

Although I have to confess that being supported by our King and Archbishop Desmond Tutu (*see photos below*) is a huge boost.

Volunteers, in groups known as Pods, come in all shapes and sizes.

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1st Halesworth Scout Group Charity Christmas Card Collection 2023

Collection dates for this year's post are Saturday 25th November until noon on Saturday 16th December.

1st Halesworth Scouts are offering their special Christmas postal service to Halesworth and Holton for 2023. We are asking for a donation of **40p per card** – please put your cards and money in the special Scout Christmas post boxes, this offers fantastic value compared to the ever-increasing prices of Royal Mail. Please write the **full address with postcode** clearly on the envelope.

Members of 1st Halesworth Scouts Group will deliver your Christmas cards by Friday 22nd December. Cards will be delivered to Halesworth and Holton addresses only.

We CANNOT deliver to any other location.

Post box locations: Halesworth Library; Allen's Butchers; D C Patrick Newsagent; Halesworth Co-op; Coopers; Marketfield Farm Shop, Holton Road; Heathside Stores, Wenhaston.

This service is a major fundraising event for 1st Halesworth Scout Group and requires many hours of work by the leaders and families of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Please support it if you can.

"We endeavour to deliver all the cards we receive that have a full address. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports our Scout Group by using the service and especially the businesses which allow our boxes to be placed in their premises and hope that ever more people will give us a try."

Thanks in advance for your support for this valuable fundraising activity.

More Information?

If you have any questions about the Scout Christmas Post, please contact: halesworthscouting@gmail.com

David Clack

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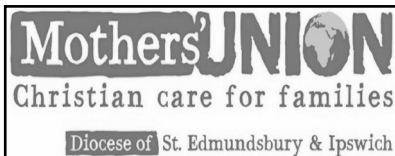
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Excerpts from
Transformation Now! -
October 2023 No 45.
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No 249726

Annual Gathering York September 22nd

MU members from several branches across the diocese attended the Annual Gathering in York. The programme included a key note speech from our Worldwide President Sheran Harper who shared stories from MU projects and outreach across the globe.

The Team from MSH launched the new campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse, with the title: RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse.

Feedback from the fundraising events held nationally this year, £87,000 was raised for "Make a Mother's Day" and £45,000 has been raised so far for the "Summer of Hope Appeal."

In the afternoon there was a presentation on supporting the clergy relationship Galatians 6 v.9. The need to be a bridge in uncertain times was highlighted and the role of Mothers' Union to stand in the gaps, in their church and community. To be the gift of reconciliation and peace-making, to have the gift of faith to be joyful, to keep the faith and to do the little things. This topic resonated with Jeanette Wallond from Southwold and Reydon branch as their congregation are nearing the end of an interregnum and look forward to welcoming their new vicar shortly.

Growing Mothers' Union remains a challenge. The key is for us to ensure that our invitations, whether to friends or family members be personal, and we must also be persistent, remembering to key our focus on just being Christians together. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell continued this theme in his address at Evensong for Mothers' Union in York Minster.

Lilian Rose

The death has been announced of Lilian Rose on Tuesday 22nd August, aged 84. Lilian worked at Diocesan office as a secretary in many different departments, as well with a variety of clergy over the years. She was Mothers' Union

MU Waveney & Blyth Deanery Songs of Praise 11.10.23

MU members from Halesworth, Southwold & Reydon and Wenhaston branches enjoyed a good sing at their Songs of Praise held on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th October. The service was held in St Peter's Church, Wenhaston.

The hymns were chosen by members from the three branches. A big 'thank you' to the Revd Alison Alder who led the service and to Jonathan Alder who played the organ for us. After our hearty singing, we enjoyed a cuppa and delicious cakes. Many thanks to the two Margarets.

There was a wonderful display of greetings cards, Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, Advent calendars, books and gifts at the back of the church and in the porch. These were kindly brought by Clare Thomas, our MUe rep in the Diocese.

Although we have access to MU catalogues, it is always good to see examples of everything. I think Clare made a number of sales. Thank you very much to Clare for coming to Wenhaston. It is still possible to order items, which she will either post or they can be collected at the MU Diocesan Council on Thursday 30th November.

Janet Walkey

Diocesan Secretary working with three Diocesan Presidents, Joyce Starling, Catherine Prophet, and Val Jeffreys. Her funeral took place at St Mary's Coddham where Lilian worshipped and also played the organ. Members of Mothers' Union attended her funeral. Please remember her son Simon and daughter Charlotte and their spouses, together with her three grandchildren, in your prayers.

Rise-Up – 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence 25/11/23 – 10/12/23

The United Nations 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is an international campaign. It takes place from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence) until December 10th (International Human Rights Day). Started over 30 years ago by activists at the Women's Global Leadership Institute, the 16 Days are used by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with over 6,000 organisations from approximately 187 countries to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence (GBV) and abuse in all forms and in all societies. MU and Women's Aid have joined forces to end Domestic Abuse. Since 2013 it has been a primary focus.

Women and girls face many injustices. As members of Mothers' Union, we play a unique role in helping to overcome this across the world. Our 16 days campaign has evolved into a 16 Days 365 outreach. Initiatives undertaken aim to develop understanding of the root causes of gender based violence, draw attention to unhelpful cultural norms, promote right and equal relationships, and highlight domestic abuse in our communities. We also work with other organisations and groups to increase our effectiveness. Mothers' Union fights for gender justice and equity across the world. We work with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. We work at grassroots level to empower women, tackle injustice and end poverty. Our members are active in 83 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities to build a future where everyone thrives.

Rise Up Campaign. Plug into the Power of Prayer

The following is part of a prayer written for the Rise Up campaign.

We commit ourselves, those who have experience of abuse, those whose loved ones have experience of abuse and those who enjoy safety and peace in our relationships – to RISE UP against domestic abuse in all its forms.

We pray – for your compassion as we seek to RESPOND – for your wisdom as we become better INFORMED – for your gentleness as we try to SUPPORT – for your strength as we hope to EMPOWER – and the mark of your Holy Spirit that UNITES us together to work and PRAY unceasingly, until situations change and freedom, life and love is restored to all. In your dear and powerful name, we cry out to you together. Amen.

Janet Walkey

Waveney & Blyth Deanery MU Leader

01986 872594.

janetwalkey@hotmail.com



Friends of St Mary's Halesworth

October's Lunchtime Recital Review

WOW WOW WOW! We were truly blessed to have Hungarian Soprano Katalin Prentice join us for the October recital at St Mary's Halesworth, accompanied by the incredibly talented Tanya Kirk. The recital began with Handel's *Care Selve*, which means 'come beloved', from the pastoral opera *Atalanta* composed in 1736, one of the sweetest pieces Handel ever wrote, and sung so delicately by Katalin.

Venanzio Rauzzini was an Italian castrato; after hearing Rauzzini's voice, Mozart wrote *Exsultate, Jubilate* expressly for him. In modern times the piece has been adopted by female sopranos, *Exsultate Jubilate* means 'rejoice and be glad.'

The recital moved onto three pieces, all about various kinds of love from intoxicating love, overwhelming love and devotion. I became distracted by the piece called *Zueignung* by Strauss, it means 'love's devotion'. The song spoke of the love that hurts, sometimes the love that breaks the heart, but as Vetta said, wouldn't we rather have that pain than living without love. Katalin's expressive singing captured us all.

Then it was Tanya's opportunity to calm things down from the explosive expressions of love that Katalin had been singing about. Tanya played her favourite piece of Beethoven – the *Adagio Cantabile* from Sonata Pathétique Op. 13, a very familiar piece to so many, a moment of beauty and sincerity played so majestically by Tanya on the old Rud Ibach piano in St Mary's.

The recital concluded with two arias from our diva of the day. *Musetta's aria* from *La Bohème*, also known as *Musetta's Waltz*. Then the tour de force, a showstopping piece to finish, a piece to test a soprano's endurance which Katalin breezed through, making it all seem so naturally easy! *Glitter and Be Gay* by Bernstein from *Candide*.

I say again WOW WOW WOW! In what will be the tenth anniversary year of the 'Friends of St Mary's' lunchtime recitals in 2024 we will most definitely be inviting Katalin and Tanya back.

Katalin captivated us all with her exceptional vocal skills and stage presence even her artwork was something to behold.

Well, as can you guess, I enjoyed the recital! (www.katalinprentice.com).

If you missed the recital, no problem, you can watch it at: www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish



Tanya (left) and Katalin

Thank you to everyone who came, just under £300 was raised for the Regeneration Fund.

We welcome Tanya back for the next recital on Wednesday 8th November, along with Baritone Evan Ruth for a recital titled *Journeys through Life*. English, French and Italian art songs tracing life's milestones. With music by Vaughan-Williams, Duparc and Puccini.

Jason Busby



Ringsfield Hall Trustee Recruitment

Ringsfield Hall has been working to bring school children into the countryside to experience the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and to help churches and fellowships to explore the fifth mark of mission, 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

We are looking for Christians who would support this work through becoming a Trustee. Please could you let this need be known through your churches, and if there is anyone interested please contact Phil Miller.

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Friends of St Mary's - St Mary The Virgin Church, Halesworth

- A little bit of history: 3 The Military Connection.

The Argentein family, Lords of the Manor of Halesworth (c1130-1424) give us our first military connection. The family were benefactors of the town and St Mary's with the entry to the Argentein chapel being where the organ now stands. Sir Giles Argentein (d.1283) fought and was imprisoned in Wales, soldiered in Gascony, and fought in the battle of Lewes in 1265 with Simon de Montfort. On the floor of the Lady Chapel are the ledger stones of Sir William Argentein (c1350-1418) and his wife, (moved here when the organ was installed), their brasses missing, likely removed by the iconoclast, William Dowsing. The North Porch was reputedly built by Sir William Argentein in thanks for his safe return, and that of his son, William, from the Battle of Agincourt fought on 25 October 1415.

Some 300-400 years forward and we meet Sir Benjamin D'Urban, born on 16 February 1777, and baptised in St Mary's. He was born in the house in Quay Street that later became the Temperance Hotel, where his father, John D'Urban, practised as a doctor, moving from there to Mansion House. Benjamin joined the British Army in 1793, enlisting as a cornet in the Queen's Bays at the age of 16 making rapid progress and winning numerous honours. He married Anna, daughter of William Wilcocks of Norwich, when she was 18 and he 20 and they had two children. He served with the Dragoon Guards and fought in the Napoleonic Wars, rising from Lieutenant in 1793, Captain in 1794, and Major in 1799 to Brigadier General in 1811.

After the wars he was sent to the West Indies as Colonial Governor of Antigua in 1820, Demerarra in 1824, and Guiana in 1831. From 1833, as the first Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, he was responsible for the abolition of slavery, setting

up the first Legislative Council and the annexation of Natal. Benjamin was a popular governor and Port Natal was renamed Durban in his honour in 1835; Pampoenskraal in Cape Province that had planned to use the same name, adopted the variant of Durbanville. Durban, a village in the Eastern Cape, Durban Deep, a mine on the Witwatersrand, Durban Street in Uitenhage and Durban Road in Pietermaritzburg are other places in South Africa named after him.

Anna died at Cape Town in 1843. Benjamin later became Commander-in-Chief of British forces in Canada, but riots and wintry conditions in Montreal took their toll and he died there in 1847, and was buried in the Papineau military cemetery in Montreal. His remains were moved to the Last Post National Field of Honour at Pointe Claire on Montreal Island, with D'urban and his obelisk at the centre and the graves of re-interred soldiers around it; it was re-dedicated in 1945.

Under a small ledger stone in front of the font lies Benjamin's infant brother, Charles D'Urban, born 17 March, died 4 April 1769, died aged barely three weeks. In Halesworth, the road, Durban Close, remembers the family.

Another military connection is the Johnston family, first by way of the Rifle Hall. Originally built as a theatre in 1792, it became a Volunteers' drill hall with a tablet inside reading, "This Hall was placed in trust in the year 1862 by the children of Andrew Johnston of Holton in memory of their father for the benefit of the town of Halesworth and especially of the 7th Suffolk Rifles whom for the last two years of his life he commanded". In St Mary's, a tablet at the east end of the outer north wall of the church, placed as a memorial to Andrew's son, Captain Fowell Buxton Johnston, records that the north aisle and the chapel were built and enlarged as a memorial to Andrew.

Lastly, on the same wall, is a Memorial Plaque to Andrew Johnston, son of Fowell Buxton and grandson of Andrew. Available records show that Andrew II, when he would have been just 17 years, was a private in the Royal Flying Corps in 1914 and a corporal in 1916. The record states that he was, "Accidentally killed while flying." A truncated propeller contributed by the flying club to which he belonged hangs below the plaque. Four blade propellers, with three blades truncated, were quite often used as grave marker crosses; (the propeller actually misspells his name as 'Lieut A Johnson'). His half-brother, Edward Johnston, was famed for designing the typeface used throughout the London Underground system and redesigning the famous roundel symbol.

Jenny Janes

Walking the Labyrinth – A Time for Reflection



First Monday of every month, 2pm-4pm

St Peter's Church, Holton

Next meeting: Monday 6th November

Theme for reflective craft: Pockets



Everyone welcome

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

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

Future meetings:

December 4th and January 8th

Blyth Valley Team Ministry

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service. Details of how you can make a donation to BVTM are on our website: [https://](https://www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk)

www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk

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



Your donation goes towards the work of the BVTM across the Team



HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

The Old Hall Café and Maze Southwold held *A Maze by Torchlight* event for us in September and we are delighted to say that the evening raised £1239.80. We are very grateful to Bella, and everyone associated with The Old Café as they very generously donated all the entrance money to Cancer Research. We have a very tentative date for a similar event next year, of Friday 30th August, come along in 2024 and enjoy a magical, fun evening for all the family.



Sophia France, Cancer Research Area Relationship Manager (centre) receiving the cheque from Bella and Georgia from the Old Hall Café with some of the committee members and volunteers who helped on the night.

On October 3rd Wenhaston Flower Club had their annual Charity Night. Thank you Jackie for organising this and raising an amazing £1412.59. Thank you Wenhaston Flower Club and also everyone who came and supported us on the night.

We have one last event this year, our very popular Christmas Fair in Holton Village Hall on November 18th (please see our advert on page 28). We offer a warm welcome to everyone, so please come and support us and stay for lunch to catch up with old friends, or make new ones.

Dawn Davis 01986 873640



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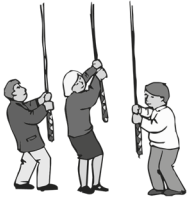
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| Thorington | Mike Gower | 01502 478078 |
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| Wenhaston | Jonathan Alder | 01502 478855 |
| Wissett | Geoffrey Kiddy | 01986 873173 |



From the Ringing Chamber

Well, the Open Day came, and went. As usual it was an enjoyable day with lots of people showing an interest, venturing up the tower to see the bells, and having a (closely-supervised) go on the end of a rope. A couple of people showed real promise, but alas do not seem to have any spare time to join us.

The Harvest season has meant lots of services at funny times, but it has given us the opportunity to ring more often, up to three times on a Sunday one week. That included a quarter peal at Heveningham in a variation of the standard Plain Bob called April Day, rather inappropriate for October but there we go. We've also rung at Chediston, Bramfield and Wenhaston, as well as ringing a quarter peal for the first Sunday Evensong at Halesworth, even though the service was taking place at Linstead! This quarter was of a commonly-rung method called Grandsire Triples, yet another first for Keith.

Our weekly practices at Blythburgh continue to be progressive, and we have rung a number of more complicated methods with some success. Everyone comes with the intention of improving, and looking back over a few weeks it is clear that everyone has. The rumours of me being a hard taskmaster are of course greatly exaggerated: nobody has broken down in tears for months, at least, not that I've noticed. Attendance numbers have been steady, always more than the minimum six for the six bells, but unfortunately often less than the eight we would need if we were to contemplate a return to regular practices at Halesworth. More bodies required! **PJG**

The Team office in St Mary's Church is OPEN on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am - 1pm. Tel 01986 875941.

On Wednesdays and Fridays, the Team Administrator can be contacted, between 9am - 1pm, on 07752 275328. Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by the

Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

Deadline date for ALL copy for the DECEMBER edition issue is:

WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Publishing date: Thursday 23rd November

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Donations Wanted!



Children's pre-loved clothes and toys for a Christmas Exchange.

On Wednesday 6th December, from 11am-3pm, we are holding a toy and children's clothing exchange in St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

Please contact Revd Alison Alder if you have anything to donate. alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk 01502 478855 / 07584 416277

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Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Philip Gorrod: *Contact for bell ringers across the Team*

Tel: 01986 875354

Email: pjg@hhhh.me.uk

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

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acackett@me.com

Thank you to all who attended Harvest Festival, taken by the Revd Alison Alder. With thanks also to Virginia for decorating the church.

We recently held our PCC meeting and now have a new Treasurer who will be picking up the reins by the end of the year. We also have a new Secretary. Thank you to you both for volunteering and helping to keep our church in good stead.

If you wish to visit the church it is always open and is a lovely place to sit and pray, or just contemplate life. Such a beautiful old church, a church has been on the site since 1052.

Prayers go to Gweneth Woolnough's family. Gweneth was recently buried at Blyford. In November, we have a wedding in church.

It is with great sadness that I heard that Daphne Francis has passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family. Daphne, together with Josie Forbes, were churchwardens at Blyford for many years. Both receiving Maundy money some years ago - a photo can be seen in the church. These ladies taught me my role as a churchwarden and I thank them both for that.

Daphne, I shall remember you with much fondness and thank you for all you did for Blyford All Saints.

Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson

07986 217868

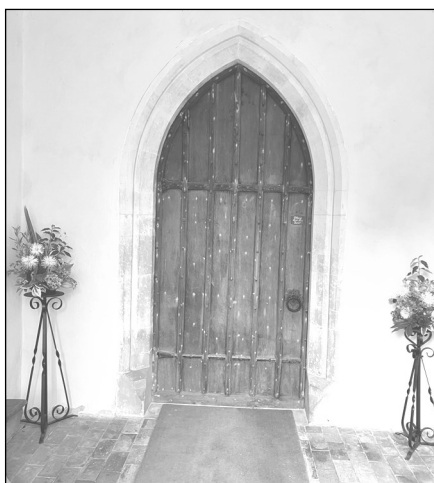
joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

Harvest Festival

Bramfield School held a Harvest Festival service in late September led by the Revd Linda Berry and it was great to see the church so full of parents and children. Old and new harvest songs were sung and all ages of children were able to take their turn to shine by singing or playing the violin.

Thanks to all who came to the well-attended Harvest Festival evensong service on October 8th. It was a lovely sung service taken by the Revd Linda

Berry and many thanks to all the ladies who made the church look so beautiful for the service.



Our thanks also to the Halesworth tower bellringers for the bells before the service and the Halesworth choir for their singing.

Our next service at Bramfield church will be Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 12th November at 10.50am, led by Jason Busby. We look forward to welcoming you. **Jinnie Barham**

Ride & Stride update

The final total raised was £471. Let's all get on our bikes and start getting fit for next year!

Harvest Supper

Our Harvest Supper, which this year was organised by Chris and Marie Collins and held at the Village Hall on Friday 6th October, was a great success. Over 60 people attended and enjoyed a delicious supper of chilli con carne, with non spicy and vegetarian options, baked potatoes and amazing puddings supplied by various village members.

This annual event was started by Pat Potts many years ago and she continued to run it until last year.

To mark her well-deserved retirement, Aubrey Holmes led our thanks and Jessica and Charlotte Steel presented her with a bouquet of flowers. After the raffle draw was made the evening was rounded off by our own wonderful local trio of Del, Jeremy and Stephen, who entertained us with their mix of favourites. The evening raised over £700, which was amazing. Our thanks go to Jeremy Thickitt for sponsoring the meat, Aubrey, Anna

and Elizabeth for the raffle and to all those who contributed the puddings and helped, not forgetting everyone who gave raffle prizes, attended and supported the event. **Jane Edwards**

Bridge Meadow/

Bramfield Village Green

The Bridge Meadow/ Bramfield Village Green news is that we now able to buy the field for the village. All the paperwork is with the solicitors and the sale should be completed in six to ten weeks. But hopefully before then! As soon as we have possession, the bank of the Gull will be fenced and the access area made safe.

The field will then be open for a village gathering and celebration.

Jane Edwards

St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

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

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-andrews-church-bramfield>

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



Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

Ride and Stride

John Parson, as our solo cyclist clocked up 13 churches which he visited on September 9th. The total raised by him was £100, half of which comes back to St Mary's. Many thanks to him but where are all the cyclists in Chediston?

Harvest Festival -

Sunday 8th October

Dominic took our service; the church was comfortably full and beautifully decorated with flowers echoing autumn colours. There were three readings telling us about the crops grown and harvested from three local farms. It always amazes me that by the time Harvest Festival comes round,

several of next year's crops have already been sown. No longer do we see the golden stubble and neatly baled straw – everything now is completed much earlier.

After the service we went to the Church School Room where Joanna had organised and prepared a delicious cold lunch for everyone. This was much appreciated. The Community Larder in Halesworth benefitted from donations from the offertory collection and various items of produce.

Chediston & Linstead WI

Our meeting took place on Tuesday 10th October when the speaker was Cathy Shelbourne, who gave us an interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Philip Broke, distinguished officer in the British Royal Navy. He was born in Nacton, Ipswich in September 1776 and died in London January 1841. He was most often referred to as "Broke of the Shannon", a reference to his notable command of HMS Shannon in the American Civil War of 1812.

Although very well matched in cannon power, Broke's expertise in gunnery resulted in disabling and capturing the American ship Chesapeake, despite receiving a near mortal wound to the head by a cutlass blow. Shannon's victory created a sensation in both the United States and the United Kingdom. As always, a delicious tea was enjoyed by members afterwards.

Veronica Downing

We were all very sorry to hear that Veronica has been hospitalised and is having to wait for a serious heart operation. It must be very frustrating for her, and we wish her a speedy recovery so that she can get back to her full and active life.

Christmas Fair –

Saturday 2nd December

This will take place in the Church School Room from 2pm-4pm. Seasonal refreshments will be available, raffle, cake stall, preserves, tombola and more. Cash only event in aid of St Mary's church.

Chediston & Linstead weekly bus service

We hope people are enjoying and using the weekly bus service to Halesworth on a Wednesday morning. See website for timings and pick up points.

Cookley

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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

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



Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby

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halesworthparish@gmail.com

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

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



The main event this past month was of course the 'Halesworth Climate Action Conference' which included a week-long exhibition and panel debate.

Over 100 school children and staff came to engage in Climate Change creatively organised by the Revd Alison Alder, including activities and exhibits from Banham Zoo. Statistics from the week include... over 200 people came to the panel discussion which was chaired by Bishop Martin, over 500 people have watched the live recording which is available at:

www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

Over 100 people came to the conference on the Saturday and the www.halesworthash.com website had

2,000+ hits over the weekend and counting. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who was involved at any level, too many people to name.

The event certainly put Halesworth and St Mary's on the map! We will continue to work with the Halesworth Ash group in the future. Many of you witnessed the birth and creation of the 'conference story mural', creatively captured by Rebecca Osborne, you can find the finished artwork and a ton of info on the Halesworth Ash website.

Following on from what was an incredible week, the climate celebrations culminated with a Harvest Festival celebration with lunch in church. 20 of us enjoyed a cold meat salad with crumble puddings. Thank you to Gwen, Sarah and Sue our chefs, and all who came to the service. All donations went to the Community Larder.

Of course, all our prayers and attention have been drawn to the horrific events unfolding in the Middle East. God of compassion and justice, we pray for your precious children, Israelis and Palestinians. In the Lady Chapel you will find prayers on the windowsill, do take time to light a candle, reflect and read the prayers available.

Looking ahead to November, on Sunday 5th at 6pm, we hold the annual All Souls Service where we give thanks for, and remember, departed loved ones, friends and family. We welcome Tina Norton who will read the names of the departed. Do join us.

Then on Sunday 12th November we invite all of Halesworth to join us for the Town Remembrance Service. 2.30pm procession from the library for a 3pm service in St Mary's. Both of these services will be livestreamed via:

www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

Finally from me this month, MONEY. A difficult subject during the cost-of-living crisis and financial pressures we all face. On Sunday 25th November – Christ the King – we will have a special 'GIVING DAY'. The Parish Share has a clear purpose, to enable the church throughout Suffolk to proclaim God's Kingdom that "thy Kingdom come". Parish Share is the model our Diocese uses to share the costs of mission and ministry between every parish in order to fulfil our calling to 'Grow in God. So far in 2023 we have paid £10,000 out of £24,391. A letter will soon be sent round with details of how to give an additional gift. Thank you.

ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

The results for October 50/50 draw were: 1st prize D Hale; 2nd prize M Woolner; 3rd prize C Kiddy.

HALESWORTH WI

Members were able not only to enjoy the lovely aromas while watching an excellent cookery demonstration by Jane Sago entitled "Simply Delicious", but they then had an opportunity to taste vegetarian goulash, coconut rice and lemon curd syllabub, which were declared scrumptious and were just three of the dishes that Jane prepared. Recipe sheets were handed out for members to go home and try the dishes out themselves. We are now looking forward to our October county events, a Literary Lunch and an Autumn meeting at the Riverside Centre, Farnham, both with good speakers. Also getting in some exercise with the WI Kurling afternoon at the Rifle Hall.

BP

Heveningham

Correspondent Christine Baker
c_bakerx@yahoo.co.uk

**St Margaret's Church,
Heveningham**

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

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

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



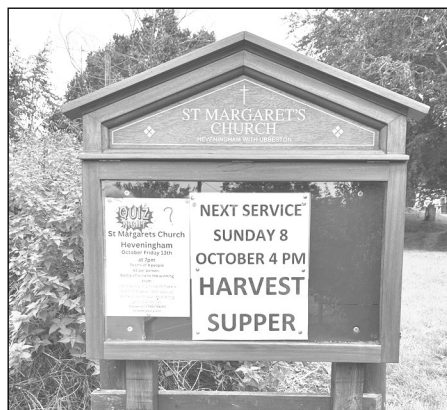
This month has been a beautiful warm start to Autumn and we have been busy in St Margaret's Church getting the churchyard cleaned up, plus we have had a deep clean up to the roof inside which was a total success and looks amazing now.

We had a successful Harvest Festival service where many locals helped by making cakes and savouries for the afternoon tea that followed. Thank you to them. Special thanks to Adnams for providing the wine; the Halesworth Co-op for donating some of the

provisions for the making of the sandwiches and to Julie for the flower arranging in the church. The congregation donated food for the Foodbank in Halesworth and thanks to them we managed to raise £115 towards the replacement of the bell ropes. It was all perfect.

Jeanette arranged a quiz night at the Bowls Club in Laxfield which was a resounding success raising another £100 towards the replacement bell ropes as well.

A big thank you to James from Heveningham Hall who restored our notice board, which was arranged by Lois Hunt and now takes pride of place at the roadside by the Glebe.

**Holton**

Correspondent Jill Hewlett
01986 875913

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As I write this, I have just been looking in my diary and have realised that the Christmas Fair is just under four weeks away! It is early this year, on November 11th, but even so it was a bit of a shock, after all, we have only just had harvest!

So, before writing about the Christmas Fair, I must report on our Harvest Sunday, which to my mind was lovely. Revd Gini led us in our worship when we remembered all the good gifts that God provides for us, and we also remembered all those who do not benefit from that generosity because of life's circumstances. Various members of the congregation gave gifts destined for the Community Larder which Jackie Watts kindly delivered for us. The church looked lovely as always, our thanks to Helen Fensom for organising the flowers (Fiona having been away until just before the weekend), and our thanks to all who provided us with beautiful

flowers and fruit including an enormous squash/pumpkin from Bill Pagan.

At the end of the service, we all decamped to the village hall for coffee followed by a veritable feast. Thank you to everyone who provided such an abundance of delicious food, many of us succumbed to the temptation to have seconds, and very nice they were too. Puddings, including trifle, fruit salad, apple cake, a harvest cake and others I have forgotten, were all scrumptious. Thank you again!

Despite our efforts, we still did not manage to attract anyone from the village who was not attached to St Peter's in some way. It was lovely to have Simon and Gwen Woolner with us, and also Margaret Rennard, but no one else who isn't already a regular. What can we do about that? I have no idea!

The Christmas Fair is on Saturday 11th November from 10am until 1pm in the village hall. Please put the date in your diary and come along and bring your friends and relations. I am sure that everyone who is helping in any way has already been in touch with Helen Knevet or Dot Booley. If, however, you have had sudden inspiration for a stall, do get in touch with them, as we can do with some new ideas. Refreshments will be on offer as always, there will be a raffle, a cake stall, a book stall and various other stalls.

Dates for your diary: On **November 6th** Walking the Labyrinth – A time for Reflection at St Peter's Church 2pm – 4pm. **November 12th** is Remembrance Sunday when our service will begin at the War Memorial in the churchyard at 10.50am, followed by a service in St Peter's. We then walk to the airfield memorials, while reading out the names of the American servicemen and women who lost their lives when serving at the airfield in World War II, followed by a short ceremony at the memorials.

IN MEMORIAM

Keith Berry died on October 1st unexpectedly at home; his funeral service will be held in St Peter's Church on Tuesday 31st October. Keith had not been a member of our congregation for very long, he was a quiet, gentle man. Those who have got to know him a bit will say what a nice man he was. He will be missed by us at St Peter's, and also St Mary's, Halesworth.

STOP PRESS

We have received a cheque for £154 for St Peter's Fabric Fund (the account

from which we pay for all church building maintenance); Jackie Watts and Jilly Hewlett had cycled and walked for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust last month, and had been sponsored by family and friends (and arm-twisted acquaintances) to raise money for the Trust and for St Peter's, so a big thank you to both of them, and all those who sponsored them.

John Hewlett, Treasurer

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

We are flushed with success at the Village Hall, as our major project to renew our sewerage system is complete and working!

The ageing system - installed to cover a much lesser usage - was just not coping with today's world and throughput of the Hall. It was a mammoth task to undertake, with the need of a spend of around £36,000 for a Charity.

Probably not the most exciting use of money either! How do you interest people in poo?

Thanks to so many people who have made it possible: Holton Parish Council brought forward £8,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy monies; Cllr Annette Dunning pitched in with £3,000 from her Community Budget from Suffolk County Council; the National Small Lottery Fund stepped forward with a magnificent £6,700 to help; Spectra Packaging and Broadway Colours helped with £1,000 each and the Adnam's Foundation gave us £1,500 - all most gratefully received.

Then there were our local people - well over £1,000 raised by donations - so many who gave what they could to help us complete our urgent project - we are so indebted to each and everyone who did.

Never forget the Flushing Dance which raised over £800 - helped by the Halesworth Co-op and Cllr Alison Cackett's donations to achieve that sum - and wow what a night that was too!

How nice it is to write something telling of success. My last thanks must go to *BVTimes* and *Community News* who have featured our endeavours faithfully!

Wendy Mendham

Holton & Blyford Village Hall Tote Recent Winners

August: 1st prize Ann Murphy; 2nd prize Liz Headley; 3rd prize Zoe Joyce; 4th prize Cilla Stammers; 5th prize Maria Wright.

September: 1st prize Richard Barrett; 2nd prize Arlette Smith; 3rd prize Angie Thompson; 4th prize Bob Stephenson; 5th prize Dinah Morley.

October: 1st prize Leneen Smith; 2nd prize Bob & Carol Manning; 3rd prize Wendy Smith; 4th prize John & Wendy Mendham; 5th prize Betty Cole.

Since the start of the new Tote year in July, we have five prize winners every month - it's not too late to come and join us - just £1 per month! Prizes are £25, £20, £15, £10 and £5 each month - it could be yours - plus which, it all supports the Village Hall and keeps it open for use. **WM**

St Peter's Church, Holton

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

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

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

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-holton

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



Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

'Wow' who says nothing ever happens in the countryside? Since I last wrote we have been 'full steam ahead' with a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care. A Harvest Supper of chicken and cider pie, followed by treacle sponge and custard, and a hugely successful Pop Chorus concert in the church in aid of Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund. Between these three events, we have raised over £1000 which has been distributed amongst local charities. Throw into the mix a fortnightly Kids Club with 30 children in attendance (and a waiting list to join) plus a new mums and tots' group, I think we can safely say the village is buzzing!

Which reminds me, we are now selling local Hill Farm honey in the church.

Don't forget to check out our new coloured greetings card of the ceiling and presentation pack of six notelets taken from two prints by the local renowned artist, David Gentleman. The week before Remembrance

Sunday, there will be a chance to view a 'Silent Tribute' to our fallen men of both World wars in the church. The service of Remembrance will take place around the village War Memorial on Sunday 12th November at 10.50am. All are welcome to attend.

Looking ahead to Christmas, our annual Carol Service will be Friday 22nd December at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to this lovely candlelit service. This year you will be able to light a candle in memory of someone close to you. The candles will burn on the altar throughout the service. The church is open daily, 10.30am - 4.30pm.

St Mary's Church, Huntingfield

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

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: [https://](https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-marys-church-huntingfield)

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-marys-church-huntingfield

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



Linstead

Correspondent

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

I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE developers of the new estate on the edge of Halesworth needed so much sand. It was subsequently explained to me that it was already there and the development was to be built on what, in prehistoric times, had been a sandbank; a somewhat scary thought! I am told that building on sand is perfectly safe, but St Matthew didn't seem to think so.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME AND supported the highly enjoyable evening, with the Backwoods Band.





The weather treated us to an Indian Summer, par excellence, real barbecue weather.



I am pleased to report that we raised £540 for church funds. A great evening! NOW IT IS WITH FEAR AND trepidation that I use the 'C' word but it has to be said: Christmas is almost upon us. But, as ever we are dedicated to smoothing the path for you as far as is humanly possible. Why not buy all those little last-minute gifts ahead of time? Therefore, may we invite you to: This is our big fund-raising event, so please come and support us.

**LINSTEAD COMES TO
HALESWORTH
THE LINSTEAD
MARKET**
will be held at:
ST MARY'S CHURCH
on
SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER
10am to 1pm
Christmas Gifts,
Food and Decorations Raffle
Seasonal Refreshments

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO helped decorate the church for the Harvest Festival. As ever, St Margaret looked absolutely splendid. One of the many advantages of having a modestly sized (i.e. small) church is that it

responds well to decorating. Having said that, I have to admit that she looked better than ever, so again, very many thanks to all involved.



THE TIMING OF OUR GIFT DAY WAS such that I cannot yet give details of the sum raised. If, in the hurly-burly of life, you have yet to make a donation, worry not, it is never too late and we are grateful for any contributions - please!

THE SEASON BEING WHAT IT IS, IT IS not all cooking and worrying about presents. So take a break and join us for:

**CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT**
**The annual service of
carols & readings**
will be held on
Sunday 17th December
at 3pm.
This is an event for the whole family, so please do join us.
There will be seasonal refreshments afterwards
And don't forget to bring a candle and candle-holder!

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI MET IN October to hear Cathy Shelbourne tell them about 'A Naval Hero'. The hero

in question was Capt Sir Phillip de Vere Broke. He was born in Nacton and commanded HMS Shannon in the American war of 1812. The Shannon took on a superior American frigate, the Chesepeke, and captured her in just 11 minutes. There was considerable loss of life on both sides and Sir Phillip himself was badly wounded: A stirring tale.

The WI meets next on Tuesday 8th November for the AGM. They will be entertained by the Halesworth Handbell Ringers. There is nothing like a bit of campanology to raise the spirits. SERVICES IN NOVEMBER COMPRISE a service of Remembrance on the **12th** at **9.30am** and Holy Communion on the **26th** at **10am**.

Spexhall

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

St Peter's Church, Spexhall

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

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



A Commanding Performance

It won't be long before the Commandments/Credal boards will be up and ready to sparkle in the church. At the time of writing they are in Cambridge being given a little TLC to bring them back to their full, sparkling glory. They will glitter among all Christmas baubles to be sure!

Things are Hotting up!

The chancel heaters are on the cusp of being installed, with huge thanks to Ben the builder for securing the pews so that the heaters can be attached.

Harvest Home

What a joyful concert I heard from my perch in the churchyard as the people from Spexhall, and their friends from near and far came together to celebrate the harvest in September. Enormous thanks to Phil and Bridget, the 'Blow-

ins', and the Off-Cut Choir for helping all to celebrate with a very special concert, and to all who cleaned, prepared and provided food and drink over the weekend. It was a good time to celebrate the harvest, catch up, enjoy our lovely church and... oh yes, a bit of fundraising too!

A Time to Remember

We all know that the Halloween traditions of America seem to have now fully migrated to these shores, but obviously much more important are the church celebrations of All Saints and All Souls. On Sunday 12th November we also remember all those who have died in the World Wars and all other conflicts. There will be an **Act of Remembrance beginning at**



The Cross of Peace in St Peters. You are welcome to light a candle.

10.50am with two minute silence at 11am, and the laying of the wreath, as always, at the church war memorial. *At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.*

We all know of the major war in Ukraine and the terrible situation in Israel/Palestine and in the wider Middle East.

A new small cross* has been placed in the prayer alcove on the south side of the chancel, and a tea light will be lit each day in November as a sign of the prayer for peace offered each day in the church. Do feel free to come in and light a candle to remember a loved one in this month of remembrance, or as a sign of your own thoughts, hopes or prayers for peace in the world. There is a safe space in the sand bowl for your candle. Our thanks to Huus in Halesworth for the kind gift of tea lights.

(*A small wooden cross made by the Bowthorpe Community Trust in Norwich has been put specially in the alcove as we think of the terrible conflicts of our time and pray, hope and work for peace).

Village Hall

The Village Hall people have been very busy clearing brambles and weeds from the car park area. We await the laying of a new gravel parking area. Hopefully the puddles the unwary step into at the entrance to the car park will be a thing of the past!

The **Quiz Night** is a regular 'not to be missed' village occasion! It is on Friday 24th November at 7.30pm. Tables of up to four @ £12 a table. Bring your own supper, but delicious cakes and tea/coffee will be provided at the 'interval'. Don't forget to hand in those all important 're-gifted' raffle prizes

from last year, and bring cash to buy your raffle tickets. You never know, you may be one of the lucky 200 people to win something. Email Karen to book your table: karen1sharman@icloud.com

Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower 01502 478078

trish@coastal1.plus.com

Thorington PCC would like to thank everyone who visited their very successful Artistree event in September and especially thanks to Liam for hosting the event in the barn and surrounding grounds, an idyllic location where art and sculpture merged into the landscape.

Artistree was the idea of Viv Burns and follows on from the art exhibitions held at the church a few years ago.

There were the usual homemade refreshments, bar with plenty of ice-cold beers and wine on a very hot weekend, and a Silent Auction, too.

A few local artists and craftspeople joined with their stalls, so a very well-attended event and a great community atmosphere. The final amount raised for the church was an amazing £6395.73. Thank you to all.

All are welcome to the usual church services, or please do just walk around our round tower church and churchyard, two benches are available for resting time!

There will be the usual Christmas Carols Service held at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve. Do come along from 6.15pm for homemade mince pies and mulled wine, please bring a torch to find us! Candles will be lighting the path too! Any queries, call Trish on 01502 478078.

Walpole

Correspondents

Lee & Anita Hill 07713 450078

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September was a busy month for St Mary's. We were pleased to participate in Ride and Stride for a second year, and welcomed cyclists with cold drinks and refreshments. There were lots of positive comments and interest in the re-opening of the church and the standard of refreshments which had been donated by members of the congregation. Thanks to everyone who helped out on the day.



The Harvest Concert featuring the Blow-ins and Off-Cut Choir at St Peter's Spexhall.

The following weekend, a small group of us enjoyed the 50th Anniversary Celebration Service of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

On Sunday 24th, we were thrilled to welcome back violinist Elly-Suh, who, 12 months earlier, had performed the first in our series of St Mary's Walpole Events. On this occasion, Elly-Suh was accompanied by pianist Yuki Negishi and together they performed the Benjamin Britten *Violin Concerto op.15*. Following a standing ovation and resounding pleas for an encore, they performed the *Habanera* from Carmen and we were all once again privileged to witness their brilliance in their interpretation of this classical masterpiece.

We should, at this juncture, comment on St Mary's itself - it was resplendent for the aforementioned occasion with beautiful flowers, as always lovingly displayed by Jane from our PCC.

Our thanks also to Dominic for leading Holy Communion earlier in the day.

St Mary's Church, Walpole

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

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



Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

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We recently held our Harvest Festival and Lunch. The church was beautifully decorated, many thanks to our talented flower arrangers. The service was taken by Alison and we were joined by our Methodist friends and villagers for wise words and joyful singing of harvest hymns.

The children from the school and their teachers, parents and friends came for their harvest service on the previous

Wednesday bringing many gifts for the Foodbank and Pantry. The church was full and some parents took advantage of the uniform swap which is in the back of the church. Congratulations to Alison for arranging this and introducing the children to our lovely church. The lunch was held in the village hall and much enjoyed by all who came. We are very grateful to all who provided food and helped us get ready and clear up. The collection in church and donations for lunch amounted to £235.50 which has been donated equally to The Tear Fund and Christian Aid.

Our next event is the Two St Peter's Quiz on October 20th and I will report on this next month. We are most grateful to Phil and Denise for co-ordinating this.

I was able to send £220 to SHCT following the Ride and Stride, half of which will be sent back to St Peter's and the other half to the Trust. Thank you to those who took part in any way.

The church is having a Tombola at the Christmas Bazaar and I should be grateful for any prizes for this. I have already started collecting!

November Services

- 5th Team Service Halesworth, 10am
- 12th Remembrance 10.50am War Memorial, 11am St Peter's.
- 19th Holy Communion, St Peter's, 10am
- 26th Pause for Thought, St Peter's, 10am

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

Our Charity Night on October 3rd was a huge success and a very enjoyable evening. (Photo below).

This year we raised an incredible £1412.59 for the Halesworth branch of

Cancer Research. We are so grateful to everyone who came along to support our efforts to raise funds for this vital charity and also to those who sent a donation, it was so generous of you all. We hope you had a great time.

I would like to thank everyone who helped on the night, with a special thank you to the ladies in the kitchen who kept everyone fed and watered. Also thank you to everyone who baked and donated raffle or tombola prizes.

As well as the usual Cancer Research stalls, the Flower Club members displayed their talents with a variety of beautiful craft stalls and Jane Bastow had her very popular plant stall. Everyone did brilliantly and the stalls looked lovely.

Sadly, Jean our founding member wasn't with us this year as she has been poorly, but her daughter Jan came and said "She is making excellent progress and she hopes to be back with you all soon". We all sent her love and best wishes.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7th November in Wenhaston Village Hall, 7.30pm. We are delighted to welcome Amie Galione who will be giving a demonstration entitled 'Sustainable Christmas'. It is just £5 on the night which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

For more information please contact me on 01502 478401. **Jackie Chenery**

Wenhaston Walkers

A walk will start from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 7th November. On Tuesday 21st November, Louise and Andrew will lead a walk starting at 10am at Dunwich Beach car park. Lunch will be taken at The Ship Inn IP17 3DT, details to follow.

If you wish to have your name added to the walkers' circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)



St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

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

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



Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester
01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.com

November, a month for remembrance and reflection.

Thursday 2nd November is All Souls' Day and the church will be open from 5pm to 7pm for anyone who wishes to light a candle to remember a loved one who has died.

The church is of course open every day and has a quiet corner for reflection and private prayer where candles can be lit, but from past experience, I have found the evening of All Souls' Day with the church lit partly by candles, to be helpful and a special time. So quiet and

peaceful, with no need to talk to anyone if one doesn't want to, but a welcome and a drink at the tower, if one does want to stay and be with people for support.

Our Remembrance Sunday service will be at 10.50am on November 12th.

Thursday 30th November is Saint Andrew's Day and our Patronal Festival Service will be at 7pm, followed by refreshments of a fishy nature in the church afterwards.

The wilder areas of the churchyard have now had their winter cut so more of the older headstones are easier to see. The leaves on the trees around are still mostly green as I write and only a touch of frost, so far.

Village News

The eagerly-awaited Jungle Room at The Plough is open and has had good reviews. Another reason to visit lovely Wissett!

There is a Quiz Night with food, tickets £10 in aid of and at the Village Hall on Saturday 25th November, 6.30pm for 7pm, tickets from Kathleen Witherby on 01986 873339.

Church Cleaning Rota

| | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 5th | Lynn Elliot and Kathleen Witherby |
| 12th | Tanya Baker and Anne Withers |
| 19th | Charlotte Pringle and Jane Parry |
| 26th | Anne Andrews and Maureen Stoddard |

I am continually cheered and helped by the support of friends and neighbours in our small village of Wissett and beyond. It is a worrying time in the world, mid-October as I write this, wondering what will happen next.

I have the words from a blessing in the Book of Common Prayer in my head:

*Hold fast to that which is good
Render to no one evil for evil
Strengthen the faint hearted
Support the weak
Help the afflicted
Show love to everyone...*

Or, in a more secular vein, as the song by Nick Lowe goes, "What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?"

What indeed.

St Andrew's Church, Wissett

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

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



BVTimes Renewals 2023-24

Please could any BVTimes subscribers who have not yet paid their 2023-24 renewals, do so asap.

Payment can be made to your local delivery person or to the BVTM office in St Mary's church Halesworth.

(The office is open on Tues and Thurs, 9am - 1pm).

Alternatively, you can pay the fee directly into the

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Prepare your heart for Christmas*

The shops are already preparing, pressurising us to get caught up in the material clamour of Christmas, the commercial and competitive spirit that spoils the true spirit of Christmas for many of us, believers or not. How much more important therefore to prepare, and yes, even protect our hearts for Christmas. The season of Advent (the beginning of the Church's year for the liturgically minded) provides a period for reflection, for preparation, a time to recover that thankful and joyful anticipation of our Saviour's birth. As John has written 'A commemoration of something as big as Christmas – the infinite God becoming a few pounds of human flesh – could not be allowed to just happen; people needed to be prepared for it. In Advent Christians celebrate Christ's coming in three ways. First, we celebrate His coming in history; secondly, we look to His coming again in the future; and thirdly, we look to His coming into our lives. Advent looks forward to the world being utterly changed in every way by the coming of Christ.' (*God with us: 25 Advent reflections*)

There are various devotional aids published every year, some for personal use, some for group study: here are a few of this year's offering – but nothing wrong with sticking to old favourites, of course, if that is part of one's own familiar (and familial!) Christmas tradition.

An Advent Manifesto: daily readings and reflections from Isaiah and Luke, by Martyn Percy This year's BRF publication. Using the *lectio divina* approach to passages drawn from Isaiah and Luke, the author encourages us to pray and practise that

most ancient Advent prayer, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come'.

Nearly 3000 years ago Isaiah 9v2 prophesied: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light". Are we not in the same predicament, needing the same miracle today? How can the light of Christ illuminate this present darkness? Engaging with two great Christmas hymns: the Magnificat and Benedictus, and rooted in the prophets, this book shows us Advent is a time to reckon with Hope from beyond, sent to the present, 'right into our present pains, panics and predicaments'



Waiting in Joyful Hope: daily reflections for Advent & Christmas 2023-2024, by Susan H.Swetnam

An annual publication, and this one comes in a large print format too.

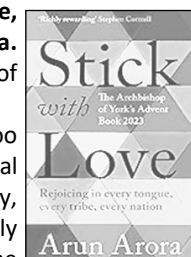
Based on the Lectionary readings for the Advent period, these are brief, down-to-earth reflections for busy people by Catholic writers, bringing prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and hopefully lasting way.

Stick with love: rejoicing in every tongue, every tribe, every nation, by Arun Arora. (Bishop of Kirkstall in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds.)

If we are honest, we are probably too sentimentally attached to our traditional Christmas celebrations, which are wintery, northern and western: this book is a timely antidote. The author helps us consider the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue and every nation. Beginning with reflections from Isaiah and Revelation, the meditations lead us on to consider the missionaries, martyrs and mystics from all over the world who light our Advent way. Themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome are explored alongside the stories of saints from across the globe.

The title is from a quotation of that great visionary, Martin Luther King Jr: 'I have decided to stick with love . . . Hate is too great a burden to bear'.

*Headline borrowed from *Eden.co.uk*



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Val Jennings

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by Derek Newby

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Proceeds to Halesworth & District Museum.

"MEMORIES & STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH"

by James W Newby

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ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

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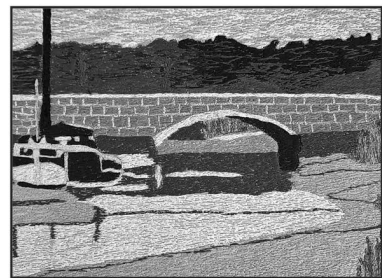
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The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Halesworth

2023 concert / events highlights

Sunday, 5 November
 6pm

ALL SOULS DAY SERVICE

Join us as we commemorate the Faithful Departed



Wednesday, 8 November
 12noon for 12.30pm

JOURNEYS THROUGH LIFE - join Evan Ruth & Tanya Kirk

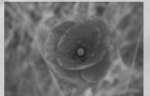
A lunchtime recital organised by the Friend of St. Mary's
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Sunday, 12 November
 3pm

Town Remembrance Service

A parade through town up to the Library, a service, then we gather around the War Memorial



Saturday, 18 November
 2pm - late

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 2.30-3.30 then 5.30-6.30pm - COME JOIN IN THE FUN



Saturday, 25 November
 10am - 1pm

LINSTEAD CHRISTMAS MARKET

Once again Linstead takes over St. Mary's for their Christmas Market - Lots to come and see



Wednesday, 13 December
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