Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

February 2020 Volume 41 Issue 2 £1.00

Minimum Donation

The Reverend Edward Rennard

1951 - 2019

"Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory"

Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by the Blyth Valley Team Ministry.
To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - (minimum donation £12 a year);
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www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

Team Calendar - February 2020

Tues 4	10:00	Wenhaston Footpath Walking
Tues 4	13:00	Wenhaston Flower Club Pub Lunch, White Hart, Halesworth
Thurs 6	14:00	Rosedale Bereavement Support Group, The Stable Room, The Angel, Halesworth
Fri 7	12:00	Pop-in Parlour, St Peter's Room, Holton
Sat 8	19:00	Chediston Quiz Night, Fish & Chip supper
Sat 8	19:00	Race Night, Holton & Blyford Village Hall
Tues 11	14:00	Arts Society Southwold Lecture
Tues 11	14:30	Chediston & Linstead WI, Linstead Village Hall
Sat 15	10:00	Cancer Research Jumble Sale, Holton & Blyford Village Hall
Tues 18	19:15	Halesworth WI, St Mary's Church Hall
Sat 22	10:00	Family History Open Day, Leiston
Tues 25	11:30	Soup & Pancakes. Wenhaston Church Room
Tues 25	19:00	Clipping - Soup & Pancakes, Wissett
Fri 28	12:00	Lent Lunches in St Peter's Room. Holton

Team Worship - Better Together

Sunday 2nd February
10:00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
Tuesday 25th February
19:00 Clipping Service, St Andrew's Wissett
Wednesday 26th February
10:00 Ash Wednesday Eucharist at Halesworth
19:00 Ash Wednesday Eucharist at Halesworth
Sunday 1st March
10:00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth

Weekday Services & Related Events

EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10:00 Midweek Eucharist at Halesworth.
10:30 Church Café in St Mary's Halesworth for all - including those just passing!
10:30 Foodbank, St Mary's Halesworth.
10:45 Church Mice for parents and pre-school children - all-age outside term-time. ALL WELCOME.

EVERY THURSDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer (BCP) at Bramfield.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

PLEASE SEE PAGE 16 FOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Sunday Readings

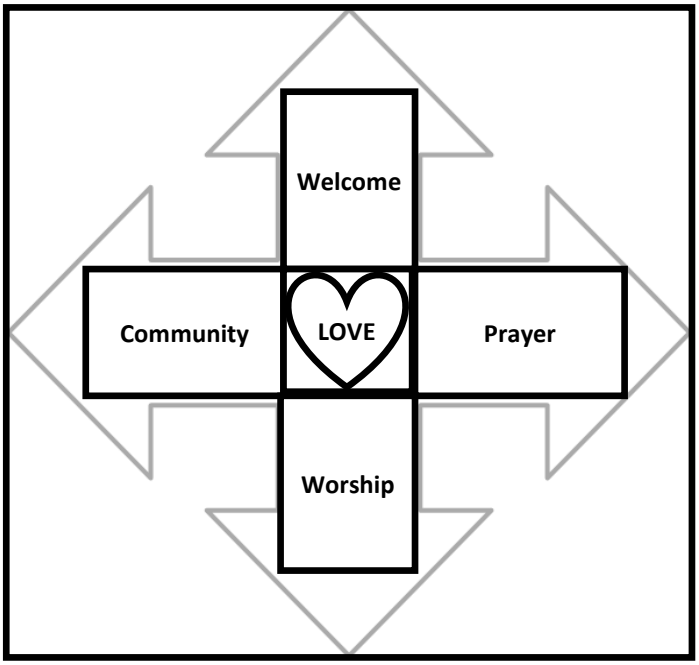
2 Feb, Candlemas
Malachi 3.1-5
Psalm 24
Hebrews 2.14-end
Luke 2.22-40

9 Feb, The third Sunday before Lent
Isaiah 58.1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112
1Corinthians 2.1-12 [13-end]
Matthew 5.13-20

16 Feb, The second Sunday before Lent
Genesis 1.1 - 2.3
Psalm 136
Romans 8.18-25
Matthew 6.25-end

23 Feb, The Sunday next before Lent
Exodus 24.12-end
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1.16-end
Matthew 17.1-9

1 Mar, The first Sunday of Lent
Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5.12-19
Matthew 4.1-11



Sunday Worship in the Blyth Valley in February

Year A TRACK 2	*Date: 2nd February* *Sunday: Candlemas* TEAM service *COLOUR:* White	*Date: 9th February* *Sunday: 3rd before Lent* *COLOUR*: Green	*Date: 16th February* *Sunday: 2nd before Lent* *COLOUR*: Green	*Date: 23rd February* *Sunday: Next before Lent* *COLOUR: Green*	*Date: 1st March* *Sunday: 1st in Lent* TEAM service *COLOUR:* Purple
BLYFORD ALL SAINTS	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Services available across the cluster	Services available across the cluster	09.30 Morning Worship Alison C	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
BRAMFIELD ST ANDREW	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 To Halesworth (licensing Elders)	11.15 Morning Worship Robert	Services available across the cluster	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
CHEDISTON ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Morning Worship Win	09.30 Village Service at Linstead	09.30 Eucharist Malcolm W	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HALESWORTH ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist C Jane, P Bill, D Alison	08.00 Eucharist (BCP) Jane 09.30 Eucharist (licensing Elders) C Archdeacon Jeanette, P Jane	10.00 Late Breakfast Church Jason and Diana	08.00 Eucharist (BCP) Jane 09.30 Parish Eucharist Jane	10.00 Team Eucharist C David, P Malcolm W, D Win
HOLTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11.15 Parish Eucharist with Baptism Jane	11.15 Iona Morning Worship John	11.15 Morning worship Win	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
LINSTEAD ST MARGARET	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Morning Prayer (BCP) Diana G	09.30 Village Eucharist Service with Chediston David	09.30 Eucharist David	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
SPEXHALL ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11.15 Eucharist at Wissett	11.15 to Iona Morning Worship	11.15 Morning worship David	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
THORINGTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Services available across the cluster			10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
WENHASTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Eucharist Vic	09.30 Morning Prayer Alison A	11.15 Pause for Thought with coffee Jane	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
WISSETT ST ANDREW	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Parish Eucharist with Spexhall David	09.30 Eucharist Jane	09.30 Breakfast Church Geoffrey	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HEVENINGHAM ST MARGARET	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Services available across the cluster	Services available across the cluster	09.30 Eucharist (BCP) Andrew Vessey	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HUNTINGFIELD ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Eucharist (BCP) Andrew Vessey	Services available across the cluster	Services available across the cluster	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
COOKLEY ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS			09.30 Mass (BCP) Fr Jonathan		

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Louise Morrissey

FEBRUARY 2020

2 Iris Baker
9 The Revd Peter Rayson HC
16 The Revd Don Nichols
23 Sue Groome

Tuesday Meetings at 2.30 pm

4 Bible Study
11 Fellowship
18 Bible Study
25 Fellowship

Wednesday 26th 2.30 pm Ashing Service

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

Sunday Mass at 9am

Mass on Fridays at 10am

United Reformed Church Halesworth and Bramfield

Minister: The Revd Jon Sermon

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY 2nd	11.00am Morning Communion **~ Minister Jon**
	6.30pm Evening Service **TBA**
TUESDAY 4th	**6.30pm Elders' Meeting**
SUNDAY 9th	11.00am Morning Service ~ **Mr George Long**
	3.00pm BRAMFIELD **~ Minister Jon**
	6.30pm **NO EVENING SERVICE at HURC**
SUNDAY 16th	11.00am Morning Service **~ Minister Jon**
	6.30pm Evening Communion **~ Minister Jon**
SUNDAY 23rd	9.30am HURC Too ~ Jo Moreira **Tea and Coffee**
	11.00am Morning Service **~ The Revd Don Nichols**
	6.00pm TFP ~ Tea
	6.30pm TFP ~ Service **TBA**

The Blyth

Whilst there will be an official obituary for Edward, we wanted as a ministry staff team, to share some things about our experience of our Rector, and, when we were talking about it, realised that Edward himself in his website page wrote a piece which truly reflects what a unique Rector he was. So we have combined our own perspectives with his in this remembrance.

Edward said that "*Being an Anglican Incumbent (Rector or Vicar) I'm accountable only to God and the Bishop for my priestly ministry, whatever current 'management-speak' in the Church may say. I'm passionate about the care of the people for whom, with the Bishop, I have the 'cure of souls'. I share this ministry with ordained and lay colleagues. Much of my time is spent nurturing and enabling people to carry out their vocations as Christians. Before even that comes discernment; all of us are called to serve and we just have to work out how. Celebrating the Eucharist (Mass, Holy Communion) is at the heart of the ministry of a priest – always remembering that it's the whole People of God who celebrate.*

In my youth, I was once nearly chucked out of a pub for discussing religion and politics. There is, however, no way that religion, or Christianity, can be described as 'private'. The Christian Faith starts with meeting together in community, or it does not start at all. And in many instances, belonging comes before believing. The Church is not a collection of individuals who happen to have 'God' in common. Rather, it is through the Church, particularly through the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, that God nurtures and nourishes individuals and helps them to grow in love for him, for one another and for the big wide world.

You need to know that (in the BVT) you will be radically accepted and cared for just as you are. We do not ask you to dress in a particular way or agree with everything you hear, or to believe six impossible things before breakfast (Alice in Wonderland style). We ask you rather to come on an exciting journey with us. God makes us gloriously diverse, and so all are welcome: old and young, gay and straight, able or differently able. My favourite bit of the Bible is one single sentence: "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12.32). Jesus is saying that when he is crucified, he will draw absolutely everyone to himself, and so to the never-ending love of God. This knocks on the head any idea that only a certain sort of person will be 'saved' – whether that idea is in the Bible, the Church, or anywhere else.

So, what sort of parish priest am I? I don't like handles much. I can cope with 'Father', but for the most part people aged 3 to 93 call me 'Edward'. God knows me as 'Edward' – why should any know me as someone different? By nature I'm rather conservative, but I know that staying in the same place means that God – and society – passes us by. In terms of worship, I'm towards the Catholic end of the C of E, but I'm not an old fashioned, 'no to everything' sort of Catholic. Worship of God demands the best we have. We are not just

Valley Team Ministry Remember Edward...

'wordy animals' so using all our senses is vital. Colour, music, movement, even the odd whiff of incense is important, as are beautiful, well-chosen words. Social justice – here as across the world is vital. God is a God of justice and fair-dealing.

Edward's view of himself is so close to our view of him it says pretty much all there is to say but here are a few comments from us:

Edward has been part of our lives for over nineteen years, as he became Team Rector at the time we moved to Wenhaston from London. Our daughter Ruth remembers going to "Sticky Bun Club" prior to confirmation and Edward asking them all to draw God. In the past few days I have had many moments where I have felt his absence keenly: I can no longer send him my sermons and articles for his thoughtful feedback, I can no longer discuss with him what I'm learning about in my training, or reflect on a particular service or pastoral issue with him. I will not have the benefit of his guidance as I prepare, hopefully, for priesthood.

I am also aware that there are many, many other people whose lives have been touched by Edward's ministry over nearly two decades. The stories I am being told are of Edward's quiet, unassuming caring for people, particularly at times of pain and confusion. The last few years of Edward's ministry have been overshadowed by health problems, but he will always be for me a much-loved mentor and support.

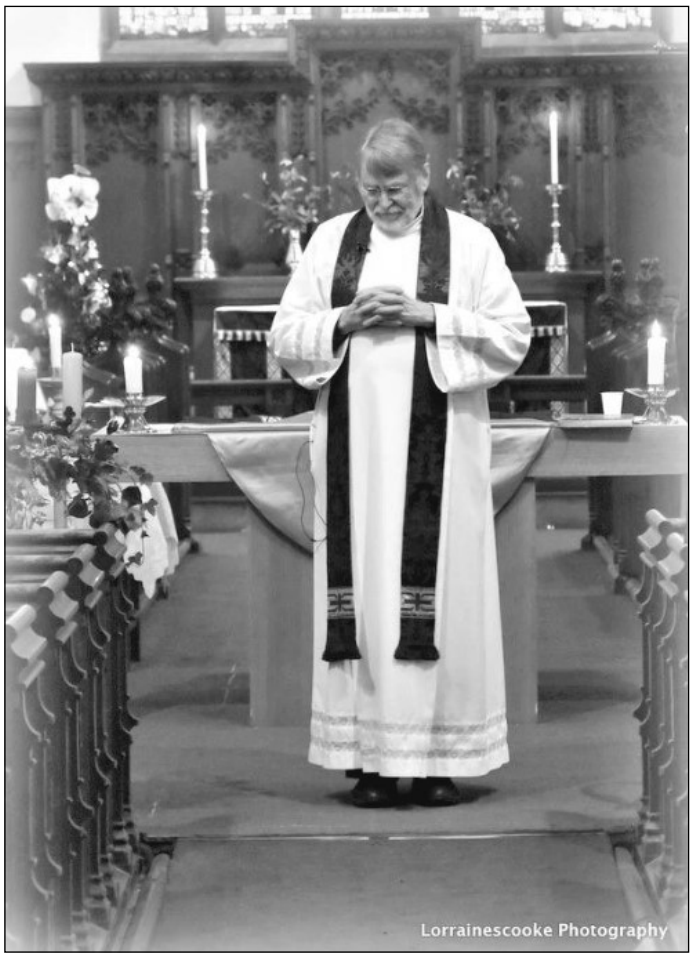
Edward was new here in Halesworth at the same time as I was. He and I learnt how rural Suffolk ticked at the same time, and I learnt gradually more and more about what being Christian was all about. Accepted unequivocally by him for who I am, I felt included and valued… and gradually encouraged and supported. Edward mopped me up when the powers that be said "no" several times and rejoiced with me when they "said" yes to my training. Every day I miss his encouraging acceptance of another of "my ideas", his admonitory but tolerant raised eyebrow when I made a mistake, or pushed the boundary too far, his rueful grin when I tried (and failed) to organise him into something or other. He was a deeply good man, and one who will also always be the person who kept me going in the tough times….much loved and much respected. His encouragement of the laity was outstanding.

Shortly after I joined the Ordained Local Ministry course, Edward became Rector of BVTM. He did his best to pull the 11 parishes together. He was keen to have a diverse Team Council and transformed the Team Times into its present format. He also set up a proper administrative office at St Mary's, thereby providing a focal point for the team ministry. Edward had the rare gift of creating wonderful Eucharistic liturgies that enriched our worship throughout the Church's seasonal calendar. He read widely and deeply, and was one of my two key theological 'resource persons'. Truly catholic, he welcomed ministers and believers of all denominations as well as unbelievers. He was a sympathetic listener and, at times, exceptionally kind. He was very human and had some unlovely bits, as we all do. Edward was so much part of my ministerial formation and life that it is hard to believe that I have to go on without his abiding presence. There is a particular grace in his dying after Christmas and before Epiphany. Between the celebration of Incarnation and the manifestation of God's glory, there is a quiet interlude when Edward's soul, finally freed from his frail body, could sing, leap and be enfolded in God's love. Rest eternal grant unto Edward, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

When I retired and moved to Holton, Edward welcomed me into the Team. He made it possible for me to be fully involved in its worship and because of this I believe my retirement has been greatly enriched.

In my life I have never managed to take the easy route and 'fit in'. I was slightly worried when I arrived in the area but I found in Edward a person who accepted me and my peculiar ways without trying to change me. I actually felt I belonged here as part of a strong and vibrant team. It was he who suggested that I looked at work in Chaplaincy - and the gentle pushing and encouragement that I received will be sorely missed.

Edward welcomed me to the BVTM and encouraged me to follow my own 'style'. Secondly I was impressed with the wide ranging lay team that Edward had in place in the BVTM. The extent of the lay support here is second to none that I have encountered elsewhere.



News from our Sister Churches

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

Our recent church life has included the new year re-start of 'The Ark', 'Little Rainbows and Messy Church, with a big emphasis on children and families, along with the Saturday Family Breakfast once a month. And most of the home group re-starting for the New Year too.

Alongside this, at Friday Prayer Meeting, we have been seeking the Lord on any new ways forward He may be calling us into:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19.

Do we perceive it? In a sense we have heard God calling us into different ways, like with Messy Church, for some time. Along with you all as our ecumenical partners, we face a reality of many people living as though God does not exist or is irrelevant. We need mission like never before: What are the new ways of connecting with new generations?

We are far from knowing the answers but are seeking God on our particular calling of the part we are to play.

Blessings

The United Reformed Church

Jon

ST EDMUND'S RC CHURCH, HALESWORTH

Greetings, everybody! And we must start by giving thanks for the life of Edward Rennard, Rector of St Mary's and Editor of the Blyth Valley Times, who left us so suddenly on December 30th. Sad news, yes, for his wife Margaret and all his family and many friends, but not *bad* news, in fact quite the contrary; he has gone on ahead of us, and is with the Lord he served so faithfully. May the Lord's will be done, our times are in His hands.

And now we greet February, still shivering in the depths of winter, frost and snow, icy rain and stormy winds. But wait: from time immemorial February has been known as the Lightgiver. Yes! Between the first and last days of this month there is a noticeable drawing out of the daylight; the winter sun climbs higher in the sky and shines upon the snowdrops, those 'fair maids of February' which look so fragile but come thrusting up through the frozen ground. What a glorious sight! They remind us of Candlemas, celebrated forty days after Christmas on February 2nd, recalling the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when she and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to be presented to the priests and people. The Anglican Prayer Book still provides for The Churching of Women, by which women can openly give thanks for surviving the 'pain and peril of childbirth', though seldom performed nowadays. (I was 'churched' after the birth of my daughters, fifty years ago).

They say that as we grow older, the winters grow colder, but we fix our eyes on better times ahead. We have journeyed thus far, and we trust in the Lord's goodness to lead us through the rest of the way. Once again, dear friends, let us turn to the scriptures.

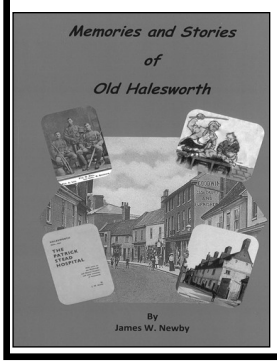
'Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou has done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee. If I would declare and speak of them they are more than can be numbered.' (Psalm 40:5).

Margaret Holt

MEMORIES AND STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH

By James W Newby. Compiled by Derek Newby

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



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St Mary's Regeneration Fund

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Churches Together in the Blyth Valley
Community Christmas Lunch

Christmas Day at the Halesworth Day Centre was buzzing – The Community Christmas Lunch was in full swing! We all had a wonderful time – with loads of food, chocolate, and for those who wanted it, drinks.

The Centre looked beautiful - thanks to the Day Centre volunteers and a lovely volunteer who did great table decorations. Who knew Father Richard had such a fine singing voice… and who knew that so many lovely folk would give up their day to volunteer.

People came for lunch not sure what to expect and went away happy, and full up! A full report on the lunch will be put into next month's Blyth Valley Times (space does not permit this month) and a formal report will go to Churches Together and to the Town Council.

Fewer folk than expected or booked were able to attend (some were struck down with illness) but we still had a goodly number, including those we took lunch out to, and we volunteers ate, too, so all in all a good event.

We were extremely generously supported with donations towards the event, and hope as a result to hold quarterly community lunches for isolated, lonely or otherwise needing a bit of a treat, all year, plus another Christmas lunch next year (there's planning ahead for you).

A **HUGE, HUGE, HUGE** thank you to all those many, many people who donated food, treats and cash - privately or anonymously - as well as to: Halesworth Day Centre, Halesworth Volunteer Centre, East Suffolk Council, Halesworth Town Council, Halesworth Unappropriated Estates, Rosedale Funeral Directors, Veronica Downing Associates, CeMap, Tesco's, Spar; Mills Butchers Southwold, Allen's Butchers, Palmers Butchers, Melons Greengrocers, Maureen Took and the Roman Catholic Church team.

We could not have done it without you all, and without the volunteers too, drivers, cooks, washer-upperers, food preppers; singers, cleaning uppers and everyone else.

Revd Jane Held for Churches Together

Walk and Worship

– February 22nd

Meet at St Andrew's Church Wissett car park ready for a prompt start. If parking on the village street, take care walking to the car park.

The walk begins on The Street, which is a busy road but soon reaches a bridleway. The gradient is relatively steep initially but the terrain is good and firm. The walk soon moves onto footpaths across agricultural land which are well marked and reasonably easy underfoot but may be wet in places. The walk will include two stops for multi-faith based reflections, poetry reading and consideration of creation and the environment.

The woodland and gravel pits along the route provide interesting plants and bird life and there are some good views in places. There are no toilet facilities on the walk although toilets can be accessed at the Wissett Plough Public House at the end of the walk.

Tea/coffee stop after the walk at the Wissett Plough.

This walk is not wheelchair friendly**.**

Dogs are welcome on leads if well behaved.

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Email: roadrunner22_2@yahoo.co.uk

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all my lovely friends, colleagues, parishioners and other nice folk who sent Emma and me Christmas cards. Thank you also for all your lovely thoughts and wishes.

Time escaped me, so none were sent, so I have donated instead to MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES UK.

REVD JANE

Environment Weekend – May 1st - 3rd 2020

We are organising a weekend in May focused on environmental issues. The aims of the event are:

***** To showcase the many projects in the local area which work to protect our local environment and its diversity.

***** To give a voice to young people and others in the community who are deeply concerned about the implications of climate change.

***** To celebrate our environment through music, art and creative writing.

***** To invite people to join acts of worship which both celebrate creation and call for its protection.

***** To showcase the potential of St Mary's, Halesworth as a community space for exploring key issues.

If you have any ideas, know of groups who could be involved, or wish to help organise the event, please email: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk

MAURICE ALDRED NEWSON

A large congregation in Halesworth United Reformed Church on January 7th joined his family for a Celebration for the life of Maurice Aldred Newson, who died peacefully on 5th December 2019, aged 91 years.

Maurice was born in Sibton and attended the C of E school until he was 14, when he left to work in agriculture until May in 1945 when he volunteered to serve in the army at the time of the ongoing war in the Far East. He did disciplinary training in Scotland for jungle warfare and was anticipating action abroad, but the sudden end to that war came early in August when the atom bombs were dropped on Japan. Maurice then returned to the Suffolk regiment at Bury St. Edmunds but in 1946 he was sent to Germany and joined the York and Lancaster regiment which was part of the British Army on the Rhine, doing duty on the borders with Russia and served there until 1948 when he was demobilised. He married Halesworth born Margaret Gilbert in 1956 and moved to Halesworth to work for Halesworth UDC taking charge of the new sewage pumping station and works. He later joined Anglian Water Authority as plant operator, graduating to foreman and superintendent covering a large area from Kessingland to Aldeburgh and retired after 32 years. He was a stalwart member of the Royal British Legion working tirelessly for his local branch, and at his request he was given a Legion Funeral with a Standard Bearer (Alfred Bloomfield), Guard of Honour comprising members from local branches and including Len Petchy, Mike Fleming, George Long, Bob Cross, John Levy, John Royce, Carol and Derek Draper. The coffin was draped with the Union Flag and entry music was Edward Elgar's "Nimrod". After sentences from the Scriptures a welcome and introduction were given by the Reverend Jon Sermon who conducted the service. The hymns "Love divine all loves excelling", "I vow to thee, my country" and "The day Thou Gavest" were sung with Jason Busby on the organ. After a Prayer of Confession the poem "Do not stand at my grave and weep" by Mary Elizabeth Frye, was read by Wendy Gilbert (sister-in-law). The Bible reading from 1 Corinthians 1: vv 18-25 was given by the Reverend Don Nichols and after the Address by the Revd Sermon, Music for Reflection was "Requiem for a Soldier" (Band of Brothers) by The Soldiers. After The Exhortation, the Last Post and the Blessing, exit music was "You Raise Me Up" by The Soldiers.

The immediate mourners were his widow Margaret, Mr M Newson and Nikki (son), Miss Y Newson and Roy (daughter), Mr Nathan Excell, Mr Connor Excell and Nadine, Mr Niall Excell (grandsons), Mrs Rosemary Wright (niece), Mr Gerald Wright, Mr Ian Adam (nephew), Mrs Richard Adam (nephew), Mr Michael Gilbert (brother -in-law) Mr Paul Gilbert (nephew), Mrs W Gilbert (sister-in-law), Mr Keith Gilbert (nephew) Paul and Mary Wright.

A Committal Service conducted by the Reverend Sermon was held at Waveney Park Crematorium in the afternoon and there were floral tributes from the family. Donations in memory of Maurice for Cancer Research UK and the Royal British Legion are invited and may be sent to Rosedale Funeral Home, Arcadia House, 19 Market Place, Halesworth IP19 8BB.

Derek Newby

St Mary's, Halesworth
Receipts Summary
December 2019

Collections	£1007.00
Planned Giving	£1268.00
Gift Aid	£87.00
General	£164.00
Fees	£588.00
TOTAL	**£3114.00**

EXPLORE2!

EXPLORE2! Has been great fun but with only one or two children attending, we thought we might pause and take stock. EXPLORE! – which is the monthly The Outdoor Church After School Club at Ilketshall St Lawrence School is very popular but the Saturday group is not. We are interested in why that might be.

Traditional Sunday school has long gone, but we can't help feeling that children may enjoy getting to know about prayer, bible stories, Jesus and faith issues more generally, and parents may want their children to get the opportunity to explore faith. If any families with younger children read this and think "well it would be better if…"…"or we would like x, y, or z and we would get involved then" please get back to Revd Jane and tell her what you think.

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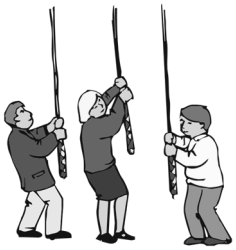
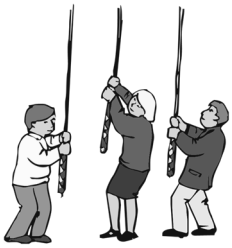


From the Ringing Chamber



The last month has, of course, been over-shadowed by the sad news of Edward's unexpected death. He had always been a strong supporter of ringing throughout the Team and it said a lot that, within a few hours of my emailing out requesting ringers to ring a quarter peal in his memory at 48 hours notice, I had received no fewer than eleven volunteers for eight ropes. I was able to pick a really good band and decided to play it safe, electing to ring Plain Bob Triples, well within the band's capabilities, and focus on a good rhythm and steady striking. Jason muffled the bells in readiness, and a steady, measured quarter was duly rung, in 47 minutes so a little slower than the usual 44, with only a couple of self-corrected mistakes. Michelle took the opportunity to show she can ring big bells as well as anyone with an assured performance on the tenor, and overall the quarter was a fitting tribute to Edward.

We had previously been busy over Christmas, with the Town Carol Service at St Mary's, as well as services at Blythburgh, Bramfield, Wissett and Wenhaston. We rang our traditional quarter peal for the Christingle service on Christmas Eve and were pleased to welcome Pete's mum Jill and our good friend Philip Moyse to make up the band for some decent Plain Bob Major. We also rang for Midnight Mass and Christmas morning service. Phew!

We also made use of Nicole being home from university and Nick having an extended spell at Blyth View and rang an excellent quarter peal of Stedman Triples, the first of such for Sal and Matthew, and the first by an entirely local band in living memory, maybe ever! Stedman is notoriously difficult to stay right in, and has an unfortunate domino effect so that when one person goes wrong another two are easily put out, unless they happen to be very awake, and the whole thing grinds to a halt. We had an unsuccessful attempt at this in the autumn and it was a really good achievement to score this time and in such fine style.

Finally congratulations to Pete on his first as conductor with the quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles at Wissett.

PG

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Edward's Midnight Mass Sermon

24th December 2019

Instead of the final and fourth short piece from Edward – the last of his pieces on the four marks of the Church - what makes Church what it is i.e. "one, holy, catholic and apostolic", we have reproduced his last Midnight Mass Sermon, preached at St Mary's Halesworth – when he was well, happy, enjoying his ministry, and with the whole family at home for Christmas. Sadly we will never know what he was going to say about an ***apostolic*** *Church, which means, if you are interested, belonging or relating to the early followers of Jesus Christ and to their teaching, but here is what he said about Christmas.* ***The Revd Jane Held***

Why are we here? And the answer is rather more complicated than "Because our mummies and daddies made us", although that's important. Someone told me the other day that when there was a prolonged power cut in New York, nine months later the New York mid-wives were run off their feet. The fact that we are created says something about just how precious and how wonderful is the human being – *every* human being. We are like the most exquisite work of art and the most intricate piece of technology all rolled into one and more besides. There is nothing in the whole world that approaches the worth of a single woman, man or child.

As we contemplate a child tonight who reaches out and enfolds the entire Universe in his tiny hands, let us remember all children: our children, other people's children, Afghani children, American children, Syrian children, Yemeni children, and see in them a wonderful sign of the freshness, the newness, the incredible creative power that rises out of eternity. How utterly blasphemous is any hand raised against a child.

We're here, in church, tonight, for a variety of reasons. I'm here because you'd probably miss me if I wasn't. But I'm also here because I want to celebrate the second most important night in the history of the Universe. We come together as the Church for many reasons: we want to worship God, especially on this holy night, or it's the traditional thing to do, or we tagged along with the rest of the family, or we felt we wanted to come without really knowing why, or we knew we were coming to love and adore the Creator who is one with the tiny child reaching out to embrace us. I'm sure there are many more reasons. But from wherever we're coming – from faith or from doubt or from a mixture of both faith and doubt, we are being drawn here – drawn as were the shepherds and the angels, drawn as were the magi, drawn as have been the greatest thinkers and the most spiritually alive women and men who have ever lived.

Tonight we come to touch ultimate Reality, the same Reality towards which scientist and philosopher point, the same Reality towards which poet and artist, musician and writer point. There is only one absolute Reality, only one absolute Truth, and in that Presence we kneel and adore.

Let us, gently and without rancour, pass over those whose eyes and hearts cannot or will not look beyond the material world, and glimpse, however haltingly, its Creator. Let us allow ourselves not to be disturbed by the bitter, shrill voice of the ignorant atheist fundamentalist that tells us to close our eyes to glory, and let us instead open our eyes to see the heavens and, on this night, the heavens contained in a human child.

Christian thinkers have always known that all words, all language they use about God is temporary, provisional and approximate. We cannot and should not seek to fully understand ultimate Reality, but we can in some sense know it, because God makes himself known to us. He makes himself known above all in rampant, exuberant love and generosity. He makes himself known because he loves us - in the wonder of the created order, in the stories of the Jewish people in Scripture, through loving relationships, because 'where love is, there God is'. He reveals himself ultimately in the person of Jesus, the child who grew up to embrace us as he stretched out his arms for us for a second time, this time on the cross.

Christian thinkers have always known that within the Bible are many kinds of writings: history, poetry, law, folk-tales, quite a few mistakes and much more besides. No-one, with any sense, understands every word of the Bible to be the inerrant word of God, but in it we see human beings encountering God in all sorts of situations. The Nativity stories show us that God our Creator, high, mighty and lifted up, can also totally identify with the human race. That is the meaning of the child in the manger. In weakness, in vulnerability, in neediness, in dependency, a child reaches out, embraces us and asks us to love him. How can *our* hearts not respond?

There are very good reasons why we hear that shepherds and angels, wise men and even domestic animals encounter the glory of God laid upon hay. Shepherds, in Jewish society were unclean, outcasts because they could not keep the ritual purity laws. The shepherds represent for us the poor, the down-trodden and those on the margins of our society. They could even be said to represent every human being who for one reason or another, is not regarded as 'mainstream': the child with learning difficulties, the adult with mental illness, the person who has a problem with substance abuse, the immigrant, the refugee, LGBT+, and the poor sod who keeps finding herself or himself in prison for petty crime.

The angels are there to show us that even God's messengers in the spiritual realms, along with the whole Universe, bow down before the human child in whom God is pleased to make his home. The magi, or wise men, come to the manger throne to show that all human wisdom and all human institutions find their true meaning in Christ:

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Richard Crashaw, one of the English metaphysical poets of

(continued on page 11)

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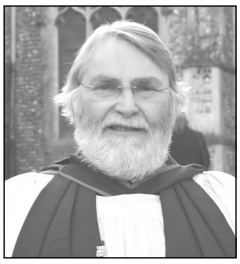

the seventeenth century, wrote these words:

"Welcome, all Wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer to winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little One! Whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth."

This is what the *Incarnation* – 'God one with us' means. Incarnation brings heaven to earth and lifts earth to heaven. It is critically important to understand that 'God one with us' in Bethlehem round about 2000 years ago was not a one off. God is still present in his world. Again and again he comes to his people. In joy and in sorrow he comes to his people. When we rejoice, he laughs with us. When we cry, he weeps with us. We learn, through the life of Jesus, that God is passionately concerned with his world, passionately concerned with each one of us. We may choose to leave him, but he will never leave us.

The greatest sign of this is the Church, meeting Sunday by Sunday, celebrating the Eucharist, the Mass, the Holy Communion – names don't matter. Here we obey Jesus's command at the Last Supper: 'This is my body; this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me'. As we celebrate the Eucharist together, as we do tonight, Christ is present, Christ is incarnate in the Church community, in us, and that community seeks to bring his love and his healing to the world around.

Why are we here? We are here because we are seekers. Some may feel they are further along in their exploration. Some may feel that they are further behind. Wherever we are, early or late on in our exploration, Christ walks with us. Fortunately for us, his patience is as he is – infinite. And we are here so that we can go out to show Christ's glory which first shone in the manger to the world.

This is my last Midnight Mass sermon. I am retiring on May 1st after nearly 20 years as Rector of Halesworth and the Blyth Valley. I've tried to be here for everyone, not just church people. I have a final request to make to those of you who are seekers, or who are people of faith, but who aren't as yet part of the Christian Church worshipping regularly together and working for love, peace and justice in the big wide world. Please engage with the local church. You will find it strange at first, but the Church needs you and you need the Church. When you grow into it and become part of it, you will change the Church dramatically and for ever. The people of this parish church bear faithful witness to Christ, but without you the church here could die.

May God bless you and those whom you love, and even those whom you don't like very much, this Christ Mass tide and for ever.

The Revd Edward Rennard

The Reverend Edward Rennard

1951 - 2019

Edward Rennard was born in 1951. His father, died when Edward was just 12 years old. His mother Jean brought up Edward and his two younger brothers, Christopher (born 1960) and Peter (1962) as a single parent. Edward moved from his Liverpool school to the Royal Masonic School for Boys in Bushey, and he was able to develop and pursue his love of music at the school and he took up the organ whilst there.

He went on to Teacher Training College in Canterbury, where he acted as occasional organist and then returned to Liverpool to his first teaching post. Teaching music and RE. At the same time he became organist and Choirmaster at St Gabriel's Huyton Quarry. After a brief spell as a teacher he felt called to the priesthood and went to Lincoln Theological College in September 1976. He met Margaret, his wife there. They married in 1977.

Margaret and Edward were ordained together and they both held clergy roles for a very happy 42 years of married life, as well as bringing up their two children, Clare and Hugh. Edward served his curacy at St Hugh's in Scunthorpe and then became Priest-in-Charge at St Matthew's in Grimsby. His last benefice before moving with the family to Halesworth in 2000 was at North and South Hykeham. Appointed as Rector in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry he has been here ever since.

Edward was a man of deep principles, theologically incredibly able, and a man who took preaching and teaching very seriously. Gently liberal catholic in his churchmanship his generosity towards colleagues gave rise to a rich and mixed diet of worship, but always centred on the centrality of the Eucharist. He was also passionately interested in the relationship between Christianity and society. He said "*The Christian Faith starts with meeting together in community, or it does not start at all. And in many instances, belonging comes before believing. The Church is not a collection of individuals who happen to have 'God' in common. Rather, it is through the Church, particularly through the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, that God nurtures and nourishes individuals and helps them to grow in love for him, for one another and for the big wide world. If you're considering being a part of the Church in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry, you need to know that you will be radically accepted and cared for just as you are".*

It was this radically inclusive approach together with his ability to nurture, encourage, affirm, and support his communities, and "grow" people into ministry roles – lay and ordained - that marked Edward out. Edward also quietly and unassumingly cared for individuals and provided much valued pastoral ministry to many a person in crisis. His principles were strong, his nature warm, quiet, intellectual, he was absent minded, occasionally stubborn, and uniquely and uncompromisingly himself. And he worked very, very hard!

In the last six years or so Edward's health deteriorated, and his ministry became overshadowed by health problems. This made life tougher and harder for him but his ability to delegate to and trust others helped keep the show on the road. Sadly, he and Margaret were planning to retire in May 2020 – 20 years after his arrival in Halesworth – a future that he was beginning to plan for. His unexpected death has come as a shock and a sadness to all. He himself never doubted that life after death was going to be truly as promised but he leaves behind regret and sadness as well as a recognition of a life well lived, God well served and his community enriched.

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

Fiona Bruce MP was invited to speak to a Mothers' Union group about social Isolation and Loneliness. After the discussion Fiona Bruce said "We agreed there are a remarkable number of members' groups and societies with varying interests which could help counteract loneliness if members are proactive about inviting others to join them."

A recent survey conducted on behalf of the department for Culture Media and Sport fund that only 23% of people said they never feel lonely with 6% of adults saying that they often or always felt lonely.

Fiona Bruce also said as a member of Mothers' Union myself, it's a pleasure to be invited to speak as loneliness is one of the greatest challenges in our society at the moment, affecting both physical and mental wellbeing, right through the generations and the Government Strategy on Loneliness launched last year seeks to tackle the challenges of loneliness across society. Measures include allowing GP's to practice 'social prescribing' to direct patients to community workers and are releasing public funding to help increase the number of community spaces, but one of the key messages which came out of our interesting and constructive discussion was how much we can all do to help each other in our daily lives.

Here in Halesworth, Mothers' Union is a small group that offers the hand of friendship to all. If you are feeling lonely and would like some company, please come to our next meeting on Thursday 20th February at 2pm in St Mary's Church Hall. We will be holding our *Knit and Natter* session (probably more nattering than knitting). We particularly knit hats for seafarers and fiddle muffs for those suffering with dementia.

If you would like to know more about Mothers' Union, please contact me. **Win Sutton, Branch Leader.**
Tel 01986 875225

World Day of Prayer 6.3.20

In recent times, the Women's World Day of Prayer has dropped the word 'Women' from the title in order to make this an inclusive service. It is always held on the first Friday in March, and this year will be at St Edmund's Catholic Church, Halesworth at 2pm. We are part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends some 24 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. Over 120 countries and islands around the world take part in this wave of prayer.

Every year the service is written by a different country. This year it has been put together by Christian women of Zimbabwe. They call us to **'Rise! Take your Mat and Walk'**. At the beginning of the order of service it says 'We are encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future and invite us to support them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

'As we hear their stories, the challenge for them and for us is that we will constantly seek love, peace and reconciliation.

'We thank the women of Zimbabwe for this service and pray that our response will be positive as we commit ourselves to positive prayerful action'.

There will be tea and cake after the service and we hope to have a Traidcraft Stall. Please put the date in your diary or calendar.

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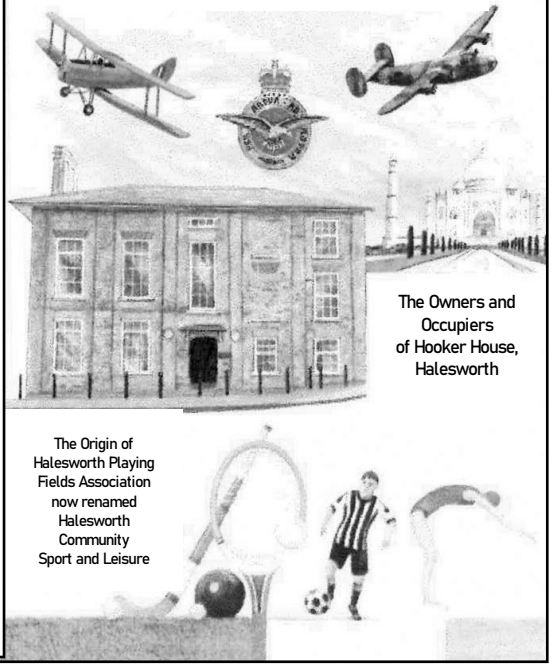
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The Origin of Halesworth Playing Fields Association now renamed Halesworth Community Sport and Leisure

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

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THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

The 2020 Season of Lectures continues on the following Tuesdays:
February 11th: Gilt and Gorgeousness - a Celebration of the 200th anniversary of King George IV's accession to the throne.
Lecturer: Barbara Askew
Lectures commence at 2pm
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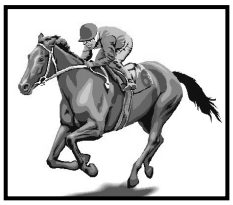
Bring own drinks and nibbles



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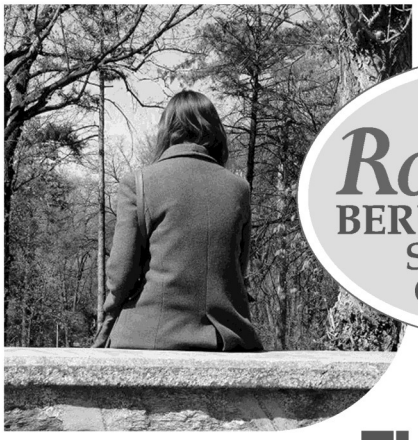

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Lent 2020

I am hoping to run a four part Lent course reflecting on Matthew's Gospel, using as a basis the visually stunning film "The Gospel According to St Matthew" by Pier Paolo Pasolini. Filmed in black and white, using a non-professional cast, the film is a deeply emotional and thought-proving portrayal of Christ's life.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me at: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01502 478855. We will try and fix a time which suits most people.

Revd Alison Alder

Another opportunity to undertake a Lent bible study is to join the Bible Study Group at Greenacres, Stone Street, Spexhall on:

March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th
and
April 6th April 2020,
from 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Let the Revd Jane Held or the Revd David Sochon know if you would like to join us.

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If you are a member of a group or organisation who would like to share your news with the local community, please email your monthly report to us for inclusion in Blyth Valley Times.

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"Sudden Deaths in 19th Century Suffolk" - Geoffrey Robinson

Geoffrey Robinson's interest in this subject came about when he spent time searching newspapers for items on Worlingworth and read about some of the astonishing ways in which the poorer classes met their maker. His talk takes the audience through many examples of sudden deaths and looks at how different hazards, inside and outside the home, affected people in a number of ways.

The talk will be at 2.30pm on Monday 17th February at the Waterloo Centre, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston IP16 4HF. Admission is £1 for Alde Family History Group members, £3 for non-members, including tea/coffee. Just turn up – there is no need to book.

For further info see our website http://aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net/ or contact Angela Skelcher on 01728 830949 or email: a_skelcher@hotmail.com

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We are looking for a person to shadow the existing Team Treasurer for a year or so and then take over the role in due course.

The voluntary work includes dealing with Team expenses, producing accounts, and providing support to Parish Treasurers, and takes a few hours each week.

This is a crucial part of the Team's ability to function well and support our communities and our churches properly.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Revd Jane Held [0771 556391. Email jane@janeheld.co.uk] or Pedro Cockerton [01986 873431].

Mothers' Union

World Day of Prayer

St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church Halesworth

Friday 6th March at 2pm

www.wwdp.org.uk

It's that time of year again - Rosemarie Mallett is now collecting donations of £5 for Easter Lilies for St Mary's Halesworth please.

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The Revd Malcolm Walkey *Honorary Associate Priest*
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The Revd Pam Bayliss *Honorary Associate Minister (Methodist) (Foodbank)*
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Email: osmg.diana@gmail.com

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

Veronica Downing *Reader in training*
Tel: 01986 873184
Email: veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

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

Karen Wynne Evans - *Team Choir Director*
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CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	CONTACT
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Bramfield	Robert Gamble	**01502 478682**
Chediston	Graeme Williams	**01986 875342**
Cookley	Jane Evers	**janeevers@btinternet.com**
Halesworth	Jason Busby	**01986 873336**
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	**01986 798408** **01986 798533**
Holton	John Hewlett	**01986 875913**
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	**01986 785343**
Linstead	Roger Wilkinson Malcolm Heath	**01986 785167** **01986 785289**
Spexhall	Fred Woods Janet Sochon	**01986 781256** **01986 781151**
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	**01502 478267**
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	**01502 478855**
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	**01986 873173** **01986 872372**

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JANUARY 2020

FUNERALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES:

Jean Theodora Fryer at Halesworth
Keith Norman Johnceline at Waveney Memorial Park
Richard Geoffrey Handley at Seven Hills Crematorium
The Revd Edward Rennard at Halesworth
John Frederick Burton at Waveney Memorial Park
Geoffrey Turner at Halesworth
Sadie Church at Halesworth

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SAMARITANS

Wednesday 19th February
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The "drop-in" is held on the third Wednesday each month

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If you would like a lift to any of the services in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry:

Need a Lift?

Please contact one of our churchwardens who will be happy to organise a lift to and from the service.

(See page 16 for churchwardens' contacts)

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

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Eileen Salmon	0793 8199067	
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Halesworth & District Museum

From the Archives

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue

This is well-known as the first line of a traditional rhyme, setting out what a bride should wear at her wedding for good luck:

Something used, something new,
something borrowed, something blue,
and a sixpence in her shoe.

Something Old: In 1986 the Halesworth & District Museum opened its doors having invited donations from the town to start a museum collection. One of the first acquisitions was a collection of six Roman terracotta roof tiles from Chediston. Four are flat with edge ridges, one is curved and one is flat with a paw print on it! – this latter can be seen in the Museum's current display. But, much older, in 1988 during an archaeological dig by the Museum team when the Halesworth relief road was built, flint tools, burins, scrapers and blades from the Mesolithic period or Middle Stone Age, some 10,000-8000BCE, were found. Flint is a hard stone called quartz which flakes easily and so can be 'knapped' into different shapes and sizes creating tools for engraving or for carving wood and bone.

Something New: The newest addition to the Museum collection at the end of 2019 is a Memorandum of Sales Information and Surveyor's Report for the sale of a cottage, 6 Church Terrace, Wenhaston, a typical mid-terrace, two-up and two-down, and still there today, modernised of course. The sale was handled by *Stanford, Broom & Stanford*, auctioneers and land agents in Halesworth 1800-1936. Their offices and a private dwelling were at 20 Thoroughfare and which latterly housed the second-hand bookshop run by James Hayward, author, who died in 2015.

Something Borrowed: The Museum has in its collection a *Macmillan's Magazine* Vol. 5, Nov 1861-April 1862. This was a popular literary magazine published by Macmillan and Co. in London from 1859 to 1907. Contents were diverse: *Books and their uses* by Doubleday*; Goetha and Frederika; Time and Life; Darwin's "Origin of Species"* by Prof. Huxley F.R.S. Also, a *North British Review,* Nov 1852-Feb 1853, which was a Scottish periodical, founded in 1844 as the organ of the new Free Church of Scotland, and which became a liberal journal published until 1871. Both these publications are stamped as loan books to be borrowed from the *Halesworth Institute for Moral and Intellectual Improvement*! Originally established in 1850 in Quay Street as the *Mechanics Institute* to offer education to older people, it had a reading room and a games room at the back.

Something Blue: Finally, the Museum holds a magnificent royal blue British Legion bandsman's uniform jacket, with peaked cap and badge, belt and buckle c1933. The British Legion was founded in 1921 as a voice for the ex-service community, merging three organisation including the Comrades of the Great War, which had an active branch in Halesworth. Since then the Royal British Legion has been active in Halesworth & District, both women's and men's sections, and the hallmark poppy a familiar sight leading each Remembrance Day.

Jenny Janes

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Halesworth Foodbank News

Thank you a million times over to all of you who gave so generously to our Foodbank at Christmas, we were overwhelmed with the response. Christmas goodies, toys, small items of clothing, as well as the vital toiletries and everyday food were given in large quantities.

As a result many local families enjoyed a happy time this year. And it was all due to you!

We have had an unprecedented demand this year, with many more people needing food. This is likely to continue, so please don't forget us for the rest of the year… just one tin makes all the difference.

The dropping off points are as listed below.

Thank you and we wish you a very Happy New Year too!

The Revd Pam Bayliss
St Mary's Halesworth Foodbank

We are here to help anyone who is struggling to find enough to eat! The Foodbank operates as part of Waveney Foodbanks, and is open on Wednesdays at St Mary's Church, Halesworth between 10.45am and 12noon each week.

Usually people come with a red voucher which entitles them to a box of food. The red vouchers can be obtained from the following: **Halesworth Library. CAB at the Volunteers Centre on Friday mornings. Children's Centre – for those with children under 5 years. Edgar Sewter School for those with children at the school. Social workers. Dragonflies (for those under 5). Halesworth Volunteer Centre, or by letter from a health agency.**

If none of these options are open, then please still come to the Foodbank! We will not turn anyone in need away, but will listen to your story and give you emergency supplies.

Halesworth Foodbank are in urgent need of donations for LOCAL use. As well as food donations, we need cat and dog food, tin openers, toiletries, washing up liquid, laundry powder and household cleaning items, sun cream, children's sun cream, lip salve. We also need bottles of baby food and products, long life milk (UHT or powdered), fruit juice (long life cartons), tinned meat/fish, sugar (500g), cereals, tinned vegetables, tinned sponge puddings, instant mashed potato, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauces, tinned rice puddings, jam, biscuits or snack bars, cereal bars, tea bags, instant coffee, tinned fruit, squash (no sugar added varieties).

Donations of non perishable foods, in date, to the foodbank are much needed. *They can be left at the following places:*

St Mary's Church; St Edmund's Church;
United Reformed Church;
Wenhaston Methodist Church; Wenhaston Post Office;
Wenhaston St Peter's; Holton St Peter's;
Spexhall St Peter's; Wissett St Andrew's;
Rosedale Funeral Directors; Woolnough Funeral Directors;
Hideout Café; or The Hub, Huntingfield.

We do rely on the goodwill of the general public, so may I say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues so faithfully to help us.

Pam Bayliss
Organiser for Halesworth and Beccles Foodbanks

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Blyth Valley Times

is published monthly by the
Blyth Valley Team Ministry.
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Please ensure all copy is sent to blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for ALL copy for the March issue is midday on

Saturday 8th February

But the sooner the better please!
Publishing date: Thursday 20th February

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Advertising starts from only £48 per year. Links to your website from our website, £5 per year.
For information call 01986 875941
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Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm

News from Town & Villages

Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:
Jane Held
www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

Hi all – its your temporary correspondent again! As I don't live in Bramfield I am relying on Andrew Niven's great email group to get local news out to everyone, and I will confine myself to church news and the rotas! And in terms of Church news the biggest most glorious item is that the new heating is installed and working away. Sadly not installed in time for the Carol Concert – I am told you could see your breath as you sang, or for the St Andrew's Day Service with the school… where the children got to jump about and shout a lot (as a ruse to keep them warm) BUT it was wonderfully warm at the 9pm Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve. Thank you, Robert for organising it and thank you to the great bloke who put it in – will supply his name in next month's edition, but he did a really good job.

I was impressed by the school service – they are really so musical and the songs they sang and the music they played was lovely. School assemblies are also a pleasure to go to, and I love how children's spirituality is so natural, curious and unforced.

Carols and a Pint at the Queen's Head was also good fun. Whilst the musicality was not always to the fore, Robert Gamble (who knew he was a secret rock guitarist) and Philip Simms (a not so secret musician) managed to get keyboard and guitar in the same key enough to create a joyous noise and everyone joined in very sportingly. Thank you, Kate, for hosting it. We agreed we would plan it much earlier next year so we could get a little group of musicians and some decent singers to join us.

And now we are into the next Church Year… looking ahead to Lent and Easter already. Which reminds me – a great big thank you is due to Lynne Buckingham & Co for the Christmas flower arrangements. The church looked beautiful – and why does Lent and Easter remind me of Christmas flowers? Easter lilies!- Am musing about whether we have an Easter Quiz and Egg Hunt at the Church… would folk like that? It certainly goes down well at a couple of other churches in the Team. Let me know!

The next Parochial Church Council (the group that is responsible for running the church) is on February 2nd, 6pm at the Queens Head – if you are interested please do join us, drinks and nibbles enliven the meeting, as does the nice environment and we would always be happy to welcome folk to join us.

Rotas: *(with thanks to Chris Collins)*

February Opening and Closing

3rd	L Buckingham
10th	M Cooper
17th	L Trussler
24th	E Bartholomew

Flowers in February

2nd and 9th	Ginny Peckham
16th	Lynne Buckingham
23rd	No flowers in Lent

Cleaning in February

3rd	D Bond and I Newton
10th	K Foster and M Foster
17th	D Munnings
24th	-

We have a new non-person called *A N OTHER* on the rota… so the Altar area will not be cleaned in February. IF ANYONE THINKS, *HANG ON A MINUTE ONE HOUR OF MY TIME EVERY COUPLE OF MONTHS IS NOT TOO BAD* – they would be very, very gratefully received as volunteers on the cleaning rota. Please let Robert, Jane or Chris Collins know.

Chediston

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

We were all very saddened to hear of Edward's unexpected death and send our sympathy and condolences to Margaret, Hugh, Clare and family at this very sad time. They are all in our thoughts as we remember them.

I think Edward would have been Rector for the Blyth Valley Team for approximately 20 years or longer and during that time he has served us well and shown great kindness particularly to those who have been bereaved. Bob Lillingston and myself were amongst the other church wardens who met him and Margaret before they took up the post here. One of the services which he really excelled at were Baptisms. I speak from experience of my own grandchildren being christened who both yelled and screamed throughout the service; Edward just kept smiling and carried on.

His two recent sermons which I was lucky enough to have witnessed were at the last Remembrance service in Chediston and the Midnight Mass in Halesworth, both of which I shall always remember.

Chediston & Linstead WI

Our Christmas lunch was held on Tuesday 10th December at the Dennington Queen. This was very well attended and we all enjoyed a delicious meal with a draw afterwards; everyone winning a prize! Many thanks to Vicky for organising this for us.

Just before Christmas we were aware of helicopters overhead and police cars driving round Chediston. David Orme from Chediston Green had gone missing. After a very thorough search by the police taking several hours, he was found safe and well at Fressingfield and then reunited with Janet. Hopefully this didn't disrupt their Christmas too much.

Lastly, I have to remind you that subscriptions for BVT for the coming year are now due. I can collect or leave cash in your letter boxes where applicable. I usually deliver on the last Thursday of the month. £12 please.

Christmas Fair –
Saturday 7th December

Graeme Williams, churchwarden, writes: 'Many will already have seen photos and report from the Christmas Fair. We can confirm that the income raised on the day was a superb £1083, which is considerably higher than last year and indeed higher than for at least the last five years. Such an event doesn't miraculously happen, a large number of people plan the event, notably Sally Aldous and Jonathan

Carman who co-ordinate the thing. People knock on doors seeking donations and of course many people help on the day staffing the stalls, tea and mulled wine counter and this year for the first time entertaining the children. Of course, the event wouldn't be complete without a visit from the man in red.

Sincere thanks go to all those who contributed to the event and the visitors on the day who gave so generously on what is the main fundraising event of the year for the church. Hopefully we can make it even better next year and we hope to see everyone there again. Many thanks to all involved in the organisation of the Chediston Christmas Fair.

Carol Service

Graeme Williams writes: The traditional candlelit village Carol Service took place as usual on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Once again, the church was packed, with additional chairs required at the back of church! The congregation were greeted by bells ringing out, with mulled wine and mince pies a popular option. The highly atmospheric service was led by the Revd Vic Hopkins, with all the favourite carols belted out with great gusto. The guest readers all did an excellent job. The collection was raised for two charities, The Children's Society and East Anglian Children's Hospices, and a fine total of £250, split 50/50 has been distributed. Thank you to all for your generosity. All in all, the Carol Service is a fabulous way to set villagers up for Christmas. Thank you also to those who did all the hard work setting up the church, which was beautifully decorated, and to Will Drew-Batty, our organist.

New Year's Eve Party

Graeme Williams writes: Another wonderful village event took place as usual at Herne Hill Farm on New Year's Eve, courtesy of Jo and Oliver Wareham. Around 140 revellers gathered to 'see in the New Year'. The carved hot buffet and salads were glorious and as for the puddings – well, just to die for!! Soul Funk Brothers provided the live music, which ensured the dance floor remained full all evening. Once the balloon drop had taken place at midnight there was an impromptu version of 'Auld Lang Syne'. Most don't see the amount of work which goes into making the barn look so fantastic for the party, but it really is a huge undertaking, for which the village are truly grateful. So, a formal thanks to Jo, Oliver, Geoff, Terry, Tony and everyone else involved - too numerous to mention. A great night once again. We understand the raffle raised £420 for the Halesworth Volunteer Centre.

David Mantell

It is with some sadness that we announce that David and Janet Mantell will shortly be leaving the village after some 20 years, for a new adventure in Oxfordshire. David and Janet have been great supporters of the church and its activities over their time in Chediston. David has overseen the maintenance of the building in his role as Fabric Officer. In addition, they have been involved in the Chediston and Linstead Website, Neighbourhood Watch, the Chediston Social Fund and Charity, to name but a few. They will be sorely missed, but we wish them well in their new home/area.'

SA: David and Janet will be greatly missed by everyone in Chediston and we are sorry to be losing them. I now have his Father Christmas outfit, plus some remaining presents in his red sack in safe-keeping here. It is sometime off until December 2020 but any takers for Father Christmas 2020?

Chediston Christmas Fair

Chediston Quiz Night – Saturday 8th February

This will take place in the church school room at 7pm – teams of six, £9 each person – prize for winning team. Fish & Chip Supper, but bring your own liquid refreshments. *Booking essential.*

Please contact Yvonne 01986 872417, or Joan 01986 875498.

SPARE GIFTS FOR SYRIA BRING AND BUY

GIFTS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR, BUT DON'T REALLY WANT? **Bring them to Sale on Wednesday 29th January, 11am - 1pm Halesworth Library.**

In conjunction with THE RED CROSS, to alleviate the awful suffering in the Idlib Province.

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby 01986 873336

My tribute to Edward:

"Are you sitting comfortably then I shall begin" is how Alison began her sermon at the Team Epiphany service. For a moment I thought Alison was going to read Edward's sermon from Midnight Mass, as Edward began that by saying "Are you sitting comfortably as this sermon is longer than my usual ones"! Little did I know that being with Edward at St Mary's as his organist (as a 'seeker') for Midnight Mass & Christmas Day was going to be our last act of worship together. I'm sure Margaret, Clare and Hugh have given thanks that at Midnight Mass they were together as a family. With Hugh slipping back into his role with the thurible (and dropping it!) (sorry Hugh) and Margaret reading a lesson. I asked Margaret if we can publish Edward's Midnight Sermon the final paragraph reading..... *"This is my last Midnight Mass sermon. I am retiring on May 1st after nearly 20 years as Rector of Halesworth and the Blyth Valley. I've tried to be here for everyone, not just church people. I have a final request to make to those of you who are seekers, or who are people of faith, but who aren't as yet part of the Christian Church worshipping regularly*

together and working for love, peace and justice in the big wide world. Please engage with the local church. You will find it strange at first, but the Church needs you and you need the Church. When you grow into it and become part of it, you will change the Church dramatically and for ever. The people of this parish church bear faithful witness to Christ, but without you the church here could die!"

Edward had been our Rector for nearly 20 years. Some of you may not know that I have been playing the organ at St Mary's for even longer; I played for Edward's licensing service all those years ago, for Edward's brother's wedding, his daughter Clare and son-in-law Pete's wedding, his grandson Rowan's Baptism and now Edward's Requiem Mass Service. In my early days as organist (still very much learning, as I am now), Edward would regularly come and sing in my ear while I was playing if I was unsure of a hymn. He would query my decision to use a particular tune. Criticise my speed and volume, for Edward was a wonderful organist himself - he could rattle off Bach blindfolded! One memory I will never forget was the Christmas he told me off in a sort of half telling off/half letting me off fashion! I turned up to a Midnight Mass Service one year, not just drunk, but paralytic - vomiting outside the north porch before the service! To this day I do not remember anything about the service. Sarah (sitting beside me on the organ stool) kept me upright. I apparently shouted "Has he finished rambling on?", during Edward's sermon. After the Christmas Day service (I felt a bit rough!) I remember walking into the vestry to say goodbye to everyone, Edward tilted his head forward as if he was looking over glasses and said to me "I assume we won't ever have a repeat of last night Jason, thank you!" Edward wasn't just our Rector, he was my Vicar, he Baptised both our daughters, and married Sarah and I. I have spent many weeks in his study over the years at Lent Group sessions, along with Martina Calver, Maureen Stanyer, Rosemarie Mallet and Shelia Roy. Edward wrote a course titled *Leading Intercessions,* to this day I still follow one of three patterns which he taught us. I've lost count of the number of times Edward (temporarily) lost his keys to St Mary's (they would usually turn up in the side pocket of his car). We will all have our memories to share and treasure of a man who was passionate about bringing God to the people. I am proud that we are an inclusive Church open to everyone. The Eucharist which is at the heart of Blyth Valley is open to everyone confirmed or not. This is Edward's legacy. He always said he wouldn't retire until the regeneration of St Mary's was complete. Edward has seen it started and now we have a plan for the future we will get the job done in his memory. Edward may you truly and deservedly rest in peace with your maker and rise in glory. Amen.

Holton

Correspondent Denise Beale

dkbeale@btinternet.com

2020: not just a New Year, but a new decade. Sadly the world continues to be in turmoil. From the devastating fires in Australia, to the escalation of hostilities in the Middle East. Even within our own country we hear about more stabbings among young people, and have witnessed divisions between families, friends and communities, over the issue of the EU.

Locally, we mourn the passing of Edward Rennard, and send love and condolences to his family. Rest in peace.

RACE NIGHT

On 8th February the horses will be out again at Holton Village Hall for our Race Night, 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets £5 available from the Halesworth Bookshop or from me on 01986 872350.

In aid of the Pear Tree Fund. Do come along and have some fun while raising money for a very good cause. **Dot**

LENT LUNCHES

It's that time of year again when we look toward Lent and Easter. This year Ash Wednesday is on 26th February so our Lent Lunches start on Friday 28th February from 12 noon until 1.30pm in St Peter's Room, and each Friday until 3rd April. As a nod toward giving something up for Lent we will not be having any cheese or pickles, but delicious soup and good bread will still be on the menu, plus tea or coffee, of course. We will be raising money for the Leprosy Mission, as we have for the last few years as the work they do is still very much needed.

If you feel that you could host one of these lunches and/or provide the soup please let me know. If that is too much any help is very welcome, just talk to me. Jill Hewlett 01986 875913.

DOT'S COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 13th December, my house was once more full with friends and family, all enjoying sausage rolls, scones, cakes etc, with a cup of coffee.

Altogether, with donations and a raffle, a princely sum of £450 was raised for the Pear Tree Fund.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed in any way.

Dottie Booley

Holton Christingle Report for 2019

A team of helpers met in St Peter's Room on the morning of the 23rd to make up the Christingles for the service on Christmas Eve. Thank you to everyone for coming and helping. We much appreciated the help of Helen's granddaughter Lottie. With so many of us the job was soon done.

Malcolm and I were then away spending Christmas with our youngest daughter Sarah, her husband Michael and baby Ben, so I was not able to be at the Christingle Service. I understand St Peter's was more or less full as usual with 71 adults and 40 children. Thank you to John who took the service and to Win Sutton who gave the address. Thank you too to Florence for playing for the carols and to everyone who helped in any way at the service. Halesworth Florists had supplied 60 very good oranges, and the Christingles were given out to all the children and some of the adults in the congregation as well.

For over 50 years Christingle Services have been one of the main fund raisers for the Children's Society, and every year whatever we send is much appreciated. Just over £182 was given in the collection which has already gone off to the Children's Society towards their excellent work with vulnerable children and young people, so they can enjoy the bright future every child deserves.

Janet Walkey
St Peter's Coordinator for
The Children's Society.
janetwalkey@hotmail.com
01986 872594

Linstead

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

OUR THOUGHTS AT THIS TIME ARE very much with Margaret and the family of Edward Rennard, who as you know, died suddenly at the end of last month. Edward joined the Team as Rector from Hykeham in Lincolnshire and he had been our longest serving Team Rector, having been with us for over 15 years. He will be greatly missed.

IT IS CERTAINLY NOT TOO LATE TO wish everyone a Happy New Year. For better or for worse, 2020 is 1/12th passed already. We are, as Tom Lehrer put it, sliding down the razor-blade of life.

MEMORIES OF OUR SERVICE OF Carols by candlelight may be fading into the mists of time, but this is my first opportunity to thank everyone who took part. Our readers this year were: Irene Thomas, Robin Ward, Tracey Abell, Julia Gilbey, Vicky Wilkinson, Benny Fenton and Win Sutton, who also conducted the service. Thanks are also due to all who decorated the church, which looked magnificent, to the purveyors of delicious nibbles, to the mincers of pies, the mullers of wine and of course to all who came along and supported us, the church was packed.

AS EVERYONE WILL BE ONLY TOO WELL aware, Linstead's churchyard still has a marked absence of gates. The insurers have asked for another quote for replacing the gates and we are currently awaiting this. As a temporary measure we have cobbled together the old sign board so that at least everyone knows that we are still very much open (wide open!) for business. Just a small plea: When using the church path for parking, please do not park too far in. The wet weather has made all the ground very soft and the entrance is getting quite 'claggy'.

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI HELD THEIR Christmas Luncheon at the Dennington Queen and had, I am assured, a very jolly time. It is too early to report on the January meeting, but they meet in February at 2.30pm on the 11th. at Linstead Village Hall. The speaker will be Paul Smiddy and his talk is entitled 'A passion for speed: The daring life of Mildred, the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce.' Don't let anyone tell you that our WI are not just a little bit racy!

NOW, AS I KEEP TELLING YOU, Linstead is hotbed of intellectual achievement and therefore this is a very important event in our calendar.

Don't worry if you can't come as a team. We are more than happy to arrange teams on the night so, feel free to come on your own or as a couple.

THE GRAND LINSTEAD QUIZ NIGHT
is on
Saturday 7th March
at 7.00pm
at Linstead Village Hall

Entry Fee £10 for a team of up to four.
£25 to the winning team

In aid of Village Hall funds

Light refreshments provided but bring your own liquid brain stimulant.

To enter a team, please contact: Pauline (01986 785347) or Vicky (785167)

MOST OF US HAVE OR HAD MOTHERS who are, or were, the most important feature of our lives. Although, for many of us it was a long time ago, their memory and, for better or for worse, their influence, never fades. That being so, it is right and proper that we should celebrate them. So do please join us.

THE MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
to be held on
SUNDAY 22nd MARCH
at 9.30am
This service will be for CHILDREN OF ALL AGES!
Informality guaranteed!

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY COMPRISE Matins on the 9th, a Village Service with Chediston on the 16th and Holy Communion on the 23rd. All services are at 9.30pm.

ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY

DATE:	FLOWERS & CLEANING
2nd	No Service
9th	Mrs A Frost and Mrs V Bish
16th	Mrs P Keable and Mr D Keable
23rd	Mr & Mrs Robin Ward.

Spexhall

Correspondent
Janet Sochon
http://spexhall.onesuffolk.net/Home/

A happy New Year to all readers even though it will be the end of January/ early February before you read these jottings.

We look back on Christmas with mixed feelings: there was joy of the noisily exuberant Carol service and the quieter well-attended Christmas Night service – both were followed with the usual copious quantities of mulled wine and mince-pies - and then just after the rejoicings came the sad news of the death of Edward, our Rector. As with everyone else, we are grateful for his faithful service to the benefice and send our condolences to Margaret and her family in their untimely loss.

2020 services at Spexhall started with the traditional Plough Sunday service was celebrated as a Team service and then we shall be into thinking and planning for Lent and Easter.

Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the full moon of the spring equinox. The earliest it can be is March 22nd (the last time this happened was in 1818 and the next will be 2285) and the latest April 25th. This year Easter Day will be approximately half-way through the possible cycle on April 12th. The increasingly popular, quiet, meditative Tenebrae service will be on Good Friday at 8.30pm. The clocks will have "gone forward" by then, but don't forget to bring your torches as it will be dark when you leave church - a further reminder next month.

And so we look forward into the coming year with all the hope that spring and our faith give us. The snowdrops and aconites are blooming in the garden, the "lent lilies" are shooting; the team Away Day to look at the future direction of the Benefice is being planned and the arrangements for interviewing the new Rector are in hand, and, better than all, we have Christ's own promise that he will never leave us.

SPEXHALL AND WISSETT WI

This year Spexhall and Wissett WI are celebrating their 100th Birthday.

To mark this occasion we are holding a Birthday Tea in Wissett Village Hall on Tuesday 24th March and would love

anyone has ever been a member to come along and join us.

For more details please contact Linda Adams on 07788477238 or June Laws at r.laws@tiscali.co.uk

Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower

01502 478267

Thorington PCC wishes to thank everyone again for their support over the last year, and to those who attended the Carol Service on Christmas Eve. There was a full church with great singing of carols and thank you to our readers, and especially to Viv for decorating the church and making those delicious mince pies. A very special evening.

There will be more news in the following months about our plans for fundraising, and the next service is likely to be at Easter, followed by one at Petertide and then Harvest. Anyone wishing to join our small PCC please be in touch with Trish.

We are all saddened to hear the news about Edward, and we join with the Team in expressing our sympathy to Margaret and the family at this difficult and sad time. We are grateful for his work and dedicated leadership over many years.

Wenhaston

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

It was with great sadness that we heard of Edward's sudden death and send our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Margaret and the family. May he rest in peace.

We had a busy December when, first of all, we welcomed 'Sing Out Yoxford' to the church. We all enjoyed the choir and were pleased to raise £450 for funds. Next was the well supported Carol Service which was a joyful occasion when the collection of £231 was sent to the Children's Society. Finally, we welcomed our Saviour at the Midnight Mass with much happy hymn singing.

Each year at St Peter's, we donate 5% of the unrestricted income to charity. This year, as well as the Children's Society, we were able to send £440 each to the RNLI and Water Aid and £175 to Halesworth *dementia* Carers Fund. We have received letters of appreciation from them all.

In February, we shall have our usual Pancake Lunches on the 25th in the Church Room. We hope lots of people will come to enjoy the soup and pancakes, and there will also be a stall and raffle for church funds. See advertisement on page 13 of this issue.

Sidespeople and Services in February

2nd	Team Service at Halesworth 10am
9th	We join Bramfield at 11.15am
16th	Morning Prayer 9.30am Jenny Jeffrey
23rd	Pause for Thought 11.15am

Church Cleaning in February

2nd	Jenny Jeffrey and Sue Gow
16th	Trevor and June Tate

WENHASTON M U

It is one of those months when the report for both the *BVTimes* and the Warbler have to be submitted before the date for our January meeting, consequently there is very little news to report!

The Revd Malcolm Walkey Celebrated at our Corporate Communion on January 15th, followed by a very brief AGM and then onto tea and biscuits!

In February, Moira one of our members is going to share with us "Fifty Years -

A Love Affair with Africa" and I know that this will be an extremely interesting meeting. Visitors at this meeting would be very welcome.

I know that all of the members in Wenhaston will join with me in expressing our great sadness at the unexpected death of Edward. He had always supported our Branch with interest and encouragement and had celebrated at our Eucharist on many occasions. We have much to be grateful for and I, personally, will always remember him as a very kind and understanding man. Our love and prayers go to Margaret and to all of Edward's family at this sad and very difficult time for them all. **Margaret G**

Wenhaston WI

Our January meeting is always cheered-up with tea and cakes provided by the committee and this year we were not disappointed.

For these meetings we don't usually have a speaker, but this month we were given an inspiring talk by Annette Dunning. She helps run one of three rural café caravans, and what a marvellous enterprise this is.

The caravans are driven to villages where no meeting place exists and here they dispense drinks and cakes. Annette went on to explain how they also give advice and guidance on keeping warm in one's home. If it's a struggle to pay heating bills or to find the cost of insulating your home the volunteers can give advice and information as to where support is available.

She gave us many nuggets of information like; did you know that if your heating boiler goes down in a cold spell the council will provide you with radiators free of charge.

Annette was an excellent speaker and answered our many enquiries with knowledge and enthusiasm.

Next meeting Jane Sago will show us some quick and easy supper dishes, very useful! **FJ**

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

Happy New Year to everyone. Our February meeting will be our Christmas pub lunch at the White Hart in Halesworth on February 4th. We are booked for 1pm so please arrive shortly before this. Any queries please ring Dawn 01986 873640.

Our meeting on Tuesday 3rd March will be in our usual venue. Wenhaston Church Rooms at 7.30pm. It is with deep sadness that we have to report the loss at the end of 2019 of two very long serving members who will be greatly missed. Pauline Self and Joan Buse. We send our heartfelt sympathies to their families.

Footpath Walking

Again, only one walk in February which will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 4th February.

For any further information, contact Heather Phillips 01502 478545.

Wissett

Correspondent
Nick Evans 01986 872372
nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

My usual piece seems trivial in the sad context of Edward's death. His last visit to us was on St Andrew's Day, to celebrate at our patronal festival. He liked coming to Wissett, and we valued his ministry, appreciated his pastoral warmth and enjoyed his erudition.

Susan Fitch arranged the Christmas decorations, and they delighted us, and many who wrote in the visitors' book. Bob Stephenson once again gave us a beautiful tree, and Easitron at Linstead Forge very kindly made and gave us a practical stand to support it. This year's candles turned out to be of exceptional quality, and burned for hours throughout all the candlelit services; even at Epiphany they were still standing well clear of the combustible foliage. Our special seasonal services were as popular as ever, and it was very good to welcome people from around the Team.

A busy time for churchwardens, but much more so for the clergy, whom we thank, especially Alison who devised a fresh Carol Service with poems new to most of us. Afterwards the church was filled with the aroma of David Andrews's mulled wine, with mince pies and trending stollen.

We still have a lovely Indian embroidered woollen shawl, predominantly red, left behind at the Carol Service. If you have lost one, or know some one who has, please give me a ring.

The labour of January is accounting, and outside, pruning trees, as the ground here is too soggy to do much else. The PCC meets shortly, and will fix the details of the **Clipping on 25th February at 7pm. Everyone is welcome at this enjoyable ritual, leading on to soup and pancakes in the village hall.**

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DATE YOUR OLD FAMILY PHOTOS!

A special Family History Open Day will be held on Saturday 22nd February at the Long Shop Museum, Leiston IP16 4ES, from 10am to 3pm.

A variety of exhibits will be on show, including local graveyard surveys, war memorials, directories, parish registers, census returns, old maps of the area, and more items of local history interest.

Special features of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group's Open Day this year will be the results of two recent projects:

We are currently researching the lives of those Leiston folk who tragically lost their lives during World War Two, and we are appealing to the public for stories or photos relating to them. And we have been cataloguing the gravestones at St Margaret's, Leiston; the finalised project will be formally unveiled at the open day, when visitors will have the opportunity to discover more about their ancestral links with Leiston and obtain digital copies of relevant photographs.

We will also again be displaying our historic photos of Leiston Grammar School sports teams, including some new ones which have only recently come to light.

And back by popular demand – Have you got any old family photos which you can't put a date to? Bring them along and let our expert Janet Huckle advise you.

Are you trying to trace your family tree? Advice and help will be available from experienced researchers. And we'll have our computers with (hopefully) Internet to help with your research.

Free entrance, but donations to the Long Shop appreciated. Light refreshments.

Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group

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LUNCHTIME RECITALS

WED 11th DECEMBER - The Red Barn Chamber Orchestra

I feel I must firstly apologise to the recitalists and all who came to watch for the lack of heat in St Mary's on the day of the December recital. Unfortunately, the boiler had been set to heat the church as warmly as could be expected, but it broke down during the early hours. It has been fixed and so hopefully we will not see a recurrence of this! Nevertheless, we are grateful to the members of the Red Barn who still gave a festive lunchtime recital of Christmas music surrounded by Christmas Trees. This was their fifth recital and we warmly thank them for their support over the years. Pieces included *Praeludium* by Armas Jarnefelt; *Symphony No 4* in F Major by William Boyce; *Chorale* from *Sleepers Wake, Cantata 140* by J S Bach; *Christmas Concerto Opus 6 No 8*, by Arcangelo Corelli; *Rondeau* by Henry Purcell from *Abdelazar*; *Chaconne* from the masque *The Fairy Queen* by Henry Purcell; *Overture* and *Sinfonia* from *Messiah* by G F Handel; and then the recital concluded with a lovely Christmas carol medley arranged by their leader Jean Hudson.

The Red Barn Chamber Orchestra was founded in 2009 by Bob and Lesley Silvester to bring together a group of friends who play within various orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout East Anglia and welcomes the opportunity to perform at concerts and recitals in support of local charities.

2020 currently looks as follows, although there may be some changes – if you know of anyone who may be interested in doing a recital, please let us know.

WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY
Roman Rudnytsky - Pianistic Portraits

Roman returns as part of his tour of the UK to once again play in St Mary's with a program including pieces by Edvard Grieg, Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach and Franz Liszt.

The heating should be working, but as it's still only February, please do still wrap up warm!

If you would like your email added to our recitals (**the second Wednesday of every month apart from January and September**) mailing list, please email

friendsofstmarys@talktalk.net

or facebook.com/FriendsOfStMarysHalesworth

2020 LUNCHTIME RECITALS, 12.30pm
Picnic Lunches available from 12pm

12th February: Roman Rudnytsky – Concert Pianist
11th March: Paul Theaker – Classical Guitar
8th April: Veronica Downing & Jason Busby – Soprano and Organ
13th May: Anne Pritchard – Clarinet Duet

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The winner of the vote for your favourite Christmas tree was Halesworth Foodbank, closely followed by joint runners up Bramfield Stepping Stones and The Halesworth Book Shop.

50/50 Club Winners for January:

1st Prize: A Baldwin
2nd Prize: V Ladds
3rd Prize: B Everson

If you would like to join the 50/50 club, forms can be found on the table by the north door.

20a **SIGN OF THE FISH** books cards refreshments

IMPORTANT NOTICE: SIGN of the FISH bookshop has a new phone number – 07770 465 785

When I was reminded me that the deadline for the *Sign of the Fish* column for *BVTimes* was imminent, my mind was a blank, and then I thought maybe that was a good thing sometimes.

We try to say too much to God instead of just sitting quietly before Him and listening. Often we are good at hopefully thanking but often asking and not just listening.

This year has not started off well for some of you, and maybe last year was not good for some like me, but I hope that we can pray for the wider issues affecting our planet – climate change and the need for us to adapt, for countries to aim for peace not war and we try and listen and understand other people's points of view.

I finish with the prayer from the 1990 Mission in Halesworth and some of the surrounding churches: "Lord help your church to know your will and share in love beginning with me. Amen." Finally the prayer of St Augustine which I like to pray every day: "Thou who art the light of the minds that know Thee, the life of the souls that love Thee and the strength of the wills that serve Thee, help us to know Thee that we may truly serve Thee whom to serve is perfect freedom. Amen." **Jill Macfarlane**

Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund

Our film matinee at The CUT on Wednesday 18th March will be Downton Abbey.

Come along to enjoy the film and bring your friends to chat over a coffee before the film, buy a raffle ticket and select one or two beautiful hand crafted cards.

We had a very good collection at the Co-op on Saturday 14th December- thanks to the Co-op and to the Rotary Club of Southwold & District, for the support of the Rotarians collecting and the people of Halesworth for their kind donations on the day.

As an added bonus, Mark and Fred kindly offered to play drums and guitar and sang carols outside which were very much enjoyed during the collection.

The Fund took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church over Christmas and had a decorated tree on display. The Fund was invited to read at the Town's Carol Service and Teresa Fyfe was pleased to oblige.

Our condolences to two families for their loss and their generosity of donations collected in remembrance of a loved one and thinking of others at this sad time.

HdCF will be putting on a fund-raising evening on Saturday 22nd February, hosted by Ian and Sue of the Triple Plea, with a Country and Western party night. A cowboy buffet will be served from 7pm, with music by Gwyn Pritchard.

For tickets please contact Jim and Teresa on 01986 875641 or the Triple Plea at the bar, or 'phone 01986 874750.

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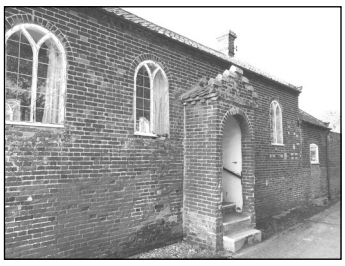

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Arms of The Argentines • Mediaeval Benefactors

Lunchtime Recital

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Wednesday 12th February, 12.30

Picnic Lunch available from 12 noon
or bring your own

Pianistic Portraits

Roman Rudnytsky

An American Concert Pianist of Ukrainian background who has played in over 100 countries returns!

Music by Grieg, Beethoven, Bach and Liszt

Retiring collection for the Regeneration of St Mary's Church.