



Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

April 2024

Volume 45

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(where sold)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world".

On Saturday 23rd March, the road trip began at St Peter's Holton and finished at All Saints Blyford with all Blyth Valley Churches in-between.

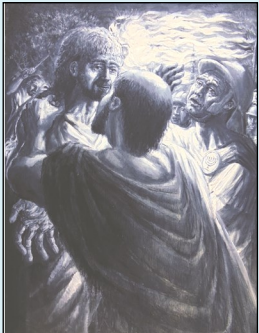
We listened, watched, prayed and reflected on all the Stations of the Cross images painted with beauty, splendour and detail by local artist, Iain McKillop, to whom we are very grateful for allowing us to display his work.

Every time you looked at an image you spotted something different, at Wenhaston displaying 'Jesus Dies' we talked about the East window co-incidentally depicting a crucified Jesus with three women around

his feet. The entire day was captured on camera, and a film produced, which is available to view at: www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

May you find God's blessing of joy in Jesus through the hope of the Easter story.

With thanks to Dominic for arranging the week-long events and the team supporting him. "Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us".



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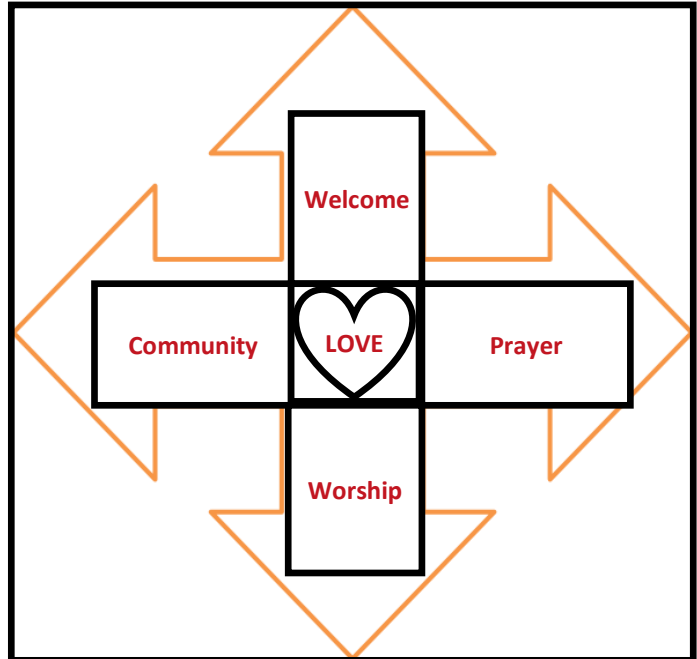
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FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS,
PLEASE VISIT BLYTH VALLEY CHURCHES WEBSITE:
www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk



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



St. Mary's Church Halesworth

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CHANNEL

April 2024 Lectionary

for Traditional and Holy Communion only

Please refer to another lectionary for other services e.g. Daily Office (Morning Prayer).

Sunday 7th

Traditional Communion – First After Easter (White)

1 John 5: 4 – 12 (KJV)

Luke 2: 41 – end (KJV)

Holy Communion – Second of Easter (White)

Acts 4: 32 – 35 (NRSV)

John 20: 19 – 23 (NRSV)

Sunday 14th

Traditional Communion – Second After Easter (White)

1 Peter 2: 19 – end (KJV)

John 10: 11 – 16 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Third of Easter (White)

Acts 3: 12 – 19 (NRSV)

Luke 24: 36b – 48 (NRSV)

Sunday 21st

Traditional Communion – Third After Easter (White)

1 Peter 2: 11 – 17 (KJV)

John 16: 16 – 22 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Fourth of Easter (White)

Acts 4: 5 – 12 (NRSV)

John 10: 11 – 18 (NRSV)

Sunday 28th

Traditional Communion – Fourth After Easter (White)

James 1: 17 – 21 (KJV)

John 16: 5 – 15 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Fifth of Easter (White)

Acts 8: 26 – 40 (NRSV)

John 15: 1 – 8 (NRSV)

Worship in the Blyth Valley in April 2024

CW – Year B Continuous New Testament	7th CW – Second of Easter (White) BCP – First After Easter (White)	14th CW – Third of (White) BCP- Second After (White)	21st CW – Fourth of (White) BCP – Third After (White)	28th CW – Fifth of (White) BCP – Fifth After (White)
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion David 10am TEAM Holy Communion with Licensing of Readers Gini	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion with Baptism Alison	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Linda 6pm Evensong Dominic
St Peter Grp				
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Veronica M	10am Iona Worship Linda	10am Holy Communion Vic
Wenhaston St Peter		10.30am Ecumenical Communion at Methodist Chapel	10am Holy Communion Vic	10am Pause for Thought Dominic
Bramfield St Andrew				
Blyford All Saints			10am Morning Prayer David	
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer Alison C
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Linda	10am Holy Communion Alison A	10am Breakfast Church Veronica M
Chediston St Mary		6pm Evensong Dominic		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D
Spexhall St Peter			10am Holy Communion Gini	
Linstead St Margaret				10am Holy Communion David
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Traditional Communion Dominic		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Holy Communion Gini
Walpole St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Jim

Other Regular Services:

8am & 6pm Tues to Sat: Daily Prayer, St Mary's Halesworth;

10am Tuesdays: Café Church by Zoom; 10am Wednesdays: Holy Communion, St Mary's Halesworth;

9.30am Thursdays: Morning Worship, St Andrew's Bramfield.

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

APRIL 2024

7th Mrs Julie Warren
 14th The Revd Iain McKillop (US)
 21st Ms Pat Williamson
 28th The Revd Robert Soanes (HC)

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Please enquire about our Service times and details



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,
 from Tuesdays to Saturdays

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

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092

Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304

Passcode - 825686

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

SERVICES for APRIL 2024

Friday 5th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
 and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 7th 11am Gathered Worship TBA

Tuesday 9th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 12th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
 and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 14th 11am Gathered Worship TBA
 3pm Bramfield Chapel

Tuesday 16th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 19th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
 and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 21st 11am Gathered Worship
 Minister Jon Sermon

Tuesday 23rd 10am to 12noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 25th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
 and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 28th 11am Gathered Worship
 Michael Homfrey-Cooper

Tuesday 30th 10am to 12noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761 pastorjonsermon@gmail.com
 Judy Morton: 01502 724572
judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk
 Elizabeth Aslett 07710 916737 (for families and children)
familyhurc@gmail.com
 Zoom Meeting ID: 776—044—1926,
 Passcode 811885



Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

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

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

From the Rector..

On Saturday 20th of this month there will be a St George's day parade and service in Halesworth. From 2.30pm, you are invited to join in carrying a St George Cross flag from the library, up the Thoroughfare to St Mary's. After a civic service, we will fly it from the church tower. Uniformed organisations, public employees, councillors and the King, will be thanked and celebrated. As part of Great Britain, we will remind ourselves of the British values of: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty mutual respect for, and tolerance of, people of different or no faith. It is my hope that the event will once again become an established local tradition. It is also my hope that this event will make its contribution to calling for just, open and informed politics making the case that we all ought to engage due to our collective responsibility whatever our creed, colour or name. Sadly, all too often, the English see their Patron Saint and our national flag hijacked by extremists. He shouldn't be. He was probably a Palestinian by ethnicity, a Greek by culture, a Christian by faith and a Roman soldier by trade. He was sentenced to death in Lydda for his belief. His association with dragon slaying, and whatever that may signify, is possibly a case of his identity being mistaken both for St Michael, often depicted wearing armour, and Persius associated with the death of a sea monster in local legend. He became the English Patron Saint when crusaders returned home having been moved by experiencing his veneration there.

Instead of inspiring bigotry, the symbolism associated with this complex character should be reclaimed to inspire everyone to fight against the monsters of our day. One such, is our increasingly narrow national and personal perspectives. Let us put on our armour and bravely consider the woes of the land of his birth. The English/British sent Lawrence of Arabia to win the hearts of various groups to help wrest the region from the Ottoman empire. The British were later able to gift a chunk of land to a recreated Israeli state through the Balfour Declaration – resulting in the Nakba. Arming the state in self-defence led to the current working boundaries established during the Six Day War. Today there are Anglicans and other denominations of Christians within both the ethnically Jewish and Arab populations. Self evidently, not all Israelis support the current minority coalition government. The vast majority of Palestinians are not members of Hamas. As this year's World Day of Prayer stories from that land show, before radicalisation, people of all faiths and ethnicities had learned how to live together <www.wwdp.org.uk> We have not noticed the discovery of, and increased US-UK interest in securing, the oil and gas reserves under Gaza. We have not remembered the Ben Gurion Canal project and the awkward

position of Gaza in relation to it. Is what we are seeing there today simply a US-UK resourced colonial land grab dressed up as support for a righteous, if murderous, crusade against kidnappers?

Whatever your views, our World War II military fought the monster of Nazism and our Lord and Saviour vanquished sin that we might be free from tyranny. So then, the church needs must prophetically remind us of our common responsibility to use that freedom. We must not allow ourselves to become corrupted by the tyranny of false or half truth. Put your armour on and see what other views there are out there. They may confirm you in your position. They may cause you to change your opinion. It is really interesting how popular *Traitors* is at the moment. This is a game show in which people win by both working together and against each other by presenting faithful or treacherous traits. The aim is to 'murder' or vote out either those deemed too perceptive or too villainous. It is an interesting study of gullibility and manipulation. Would that we learned from watching it how to discern fact from fiction in other aspects of life. For example, is it true that 'the boats' are the reason for the disastrous decline of our public services employing those we applauded during Covid. Or, is it merely a myth spread by monstrous media moguls to shield us from the truth that it may not be in our best interests not to pay taxes or shirk our responsibilities to vote for how they are spent. It is all too easy to remove from our party, church, social media feed or community, world views and people with whom we may disagree or differ. Does that make us stronger and more resilient? I fear St George would say it rather makes us the weaker and less impressive.

That brings us back to our parade to celebrate the diversity he represents in our community and country and those who serve it. May I encourage those of you who are proud to be English to join me in flying the flag of those British values of: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for, and tolerance of, people of different or no faith. As we stand strong together we may slay the monster of lies, apathy and disrespect.

Dominic

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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

Well, we have just had Easter! Celebrating Resurrection!

And the atmosphere of celebration continues. In church calendar terms, we still have the 2nd Sunday of Easter right up to the 6th Sunday of Easter to come, making a whole 'season of celebration'.

Perhaps that helps point to the even bigger theme that resurrection, new life in Christ, is to be celebrated for the whole of our lives?

During Lent, our Bible Studies have begun to explore the concept of 'whole of life discipleship'. We recognise that our coming to Christ is the start of a life-long journey (and beyond). We have been exploring the link between discipleship and mission, even addressing the question of whether it is possible to grow in discipleship without a context of mission?

We might grow in understanding the Bible, and in our confidence around church activities. But do we need, also, to appreciate God's purposes for the world and the part we – all believers – are called to play in it? Letting that sink in can really kick-start our spiritual growth.

One of the 'penny dropping' moments has been the realisation that we can easily think of mission in terms of overseas work, or raising funds, or indeed structured evangelism programmes. That can lead to thinking it is part of our 'spare time activity'. But, as Spirit filled disciples of Jesus, don't we carry the presence of God wherever we go? Can we grow in understanding that for all of us, our mission field is everyone we encounter in our homes and families, work places, clubs and societies, on the bus or on the street...

My prayer is that the Lord will open our eyes to His potential, through us all in the whole of life.

May we grow in such discipleship.

Blessings

Jon



The
United
Reformed
Church

**Revd Jon Sermon,
Minister of
Halesworth & Bramfield URC
and North Lowestoft URC**

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SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.

8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.

6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

**Mondays, Wednesdays and
Saturdays 10.30-11.30am**



What has your Team Vicar been up to?

Lent feels different every year and every year there is something new to learn. This year I was struck by the scripture for Passion Sunday, the week before Palm Sunday, as we get closer to remembering Christ's awful ordeal on the cross followed by his joyful resurrection. In the bible reading from John 12, some

foreigners ask the disciples if they can speak to Jesus. They are curious to see this person who has been causing such a stir. The disciples, unsure themselves if he will see them, ask Jesus and, as usual, he does not reply with a straightforward yes or no. Instead, he says, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" and speaks of dying in order to live.

Jesus is preoccupied by the events to come, but in the context of whether or not he will see these two strangers, it is like he is saying – if they want to see me, this is what they will see. This fulfilment of his calling on earth. It is only through his death that he can be raised into glory. This is how they will know him – this is after all how we all know him. The tough message for us is that we can only truly say we know him by acknowledging his death and resurrection. It is not just by his words and deeds but by his sacrifice once for all on the cross.

While on the cross he says a number of things, among them: Forgive them Father, they do not know what they are doing. Guiltless and suffering a most hideous death at the hands of so many who have rejected him, Jesus shows us nothing we can do is beyond God's forgiveness. We get things wrong all the time: sometimes we know better and sometimes we

don't, but we all get stuff wrong however well-intentioned we are, but we can all ask for forgiveness and strive to do better. This after all is what the cross is all about: Jesus Christ's love for all humankind, past present and future. And whatever we may think about it, however worth or not we are God loves each and everyone of us no less or more than anybody else. God is love. Simples!

These are the things I have been pondering this month, especially in terms of my own failures, one of the worst of which is pride. It has brought me pain but also joy in the consolation of God's love. I pray I will do better in passing on the consolation I have received, as I should.

Maybe my membership of the Diocese's Disability and Inclusion group will open up yet more opportunities for this. I attended my first meeting yesterday. We discussed how churches are getting more support to improve accessibility so that everyone is able to be actively involved in church. Not only addressing physical obstacles but making adjustments for neuro diversity, visual impairment, hearing loss and so on. We all have different things which make us feel included or excluded in different ways and no two people living with the same disability experiences life in the same way. We need to offer God's love in equal measure to all and do what we can to make adjustments. This may be a challenge in our medieval churches, but they need to be open to everyone; vibrant and welcoming to all. A true sacrament - God's grace made visible on earth.

If you have any ideas about what we can do to make our churches more accessible, please let me know.

With Easter love and blessings.

Revd Gini

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From the Ringing Chamber



When I was at primary school I got very excited (and very nervous) about taking my Grade 1 violin exam. Subsequently my parents were no doubt very pleased and proud when I received my certificate showing that I had met the required standard. A generation on and I was the proud parent when my children successfully negotiated their Grade 1 piano.

In the last 12 years the Association of Ringing Teachers, of which organisation Pete and I are members, has developed a learning scheme (unimaginatively called Learning the Ropes) whereby the stages of learning to ring have been broken down into five achievement levels. In the same way that, while lots of my contemporaries passed their Grade 1 violin, not many reached the dizzy heights of Grade 8, so it is that, while over 4,000 ringers have their Level 1 certificate under their belts, the achievement rate for subsequent levels roughly halves each time.

So I take great pleasure when our ringers move on from Level 1 (I **expect** everyone to get Level 1!). Just before she went off to university, Rosie successfully rang the quarter peal required to achieve her Level 3. Now Joanna, after ringing for less than

a year, has passed her Level 2, and I anticipate that level 3 will follow shortly at the current rate of progress. Finally Erika has been awarded Level 5 to finish the LtR scheme altogether, the first person Pete and I have taught who has done so, and only the 251st worldwide. Congratulations to all of them!

We have continued to attempt a quarter peal at Halesworth for Evensong on the first Sunday of each month. Unfortunately we met short in March (name of the guilty available for a fee) but managed to ring a decent quarter on seven bells, leaving out the second and ringing changes on 6 with the tenor "covering" behind, not ideal but a good achievement in the circumstances.

PJG

HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Jumble Sale on February 10th.

You all helped to raise the unprecedented amount of £1324.10. This is an amazing amount for a Jumble Sale, we are so grateful to all of you.

We had some really nice comments about our delicious cakes that the ladies served for refreshments. Thank you to everyone who contributed a cake.

Thank you to Halesworth Co-op for supplying a wonderful hamper for our raffle. We truly value your continuing support for Cancer Research. The raffle raised £145.05 and was won by Mr B Cross with pink ticket number 787.

By the time you read this we will have held our annual Big Breakfast and I will let you all know how this went in the next edition of *BVTimes*.

Looking forward our next event is our Spring Fair on Saturday 18th May in Holton & Blyford Village Hall. Thank you.

Dawn Davis, Chair
01986 873640

Heath's Room

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Halesworth dementia Carers' Fund



100+ Club

We are delighted to say that our 100+ Club now has 136 members. At our March draw, the winning numbers were: 113 (£100), 112 (£75), 76 (£50) and 118 (£25). If you would like to join the 100+ Club, please contact Anna on 07721842802.

Seated Tap Dancing

This is a new group that gives a great way to keep active and stay fit while having a lot of fun. It is led by Garth and it takes place every Friday in the Co-op Community Room from 12.30pm - 1.30pm. New members are very welcome to join the group.

Family Carers' Support Group

This group gives an opportunity for people caring for dementia sufferers to come together, and get mutual support over a relaxing tea or coffee. Looking after loved ones can be so hard, and we hope that by meeting up people can talk about their situation and find comfort chatting to others in a similar situation.

The group meets in the Co-op Community Room on Friday afternoons, from 2pm-3.30pm.

Ladies' Lunch

The ladies get-together on the fourth Tuesday monthly at The Angel, Halesworth. It is run by Arlette Smith. Arlette sends out menus a couple of weeks before the lunch takes place. As well as the lunch, there is a 50/50 raffle and a box for small change or donations. In the couple of years that they have been meeting, they have raised hundreds of pounds for HdCF, and we are so grateful to them.

It is a lovely friendly group and they welcome new members. If you would like to join the group, please call Arlette on 01986 469101 or 07717795581. She will be able to give you all the information, and welcome you to the group.

HdCF is very busy seeking ways to help those caring for loved ones with dementia. We do work very closely with the Pear Tree Centre and local care agencies. If you would like to use our respite care service, or come to one of our various groups then do please contact us and we would be pleased to help you. We can be reached at: info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

You can also get a lot of information about our activities on our Facebook page.

JW

J Moyes
Garden and General Services

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Walking the Labyrinth – A Time for Reflection



Monday 8th April
St Peter's Church, Holton



Theme for reflective craft: Nests

Everyone Welcome

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

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

Future meetings:
Monday 6th May – Come and explore the Labyrinth
Monday 3rd June.

Halesworth Morsbags Podlet



I'm delighted to advise that we now have our own Facebook page and it would be wonderful if you could join, follow, like, share and comment on this. Volunteers make Morsbags from donated fabric and give them away FREE! So if you have curtains, duvet covers, dressmaking material, do please let us know. Local collection available.



Please help us to spread the Morsbag story locally so that we can save our beautiful area from plastic bags.

Serena Hall
 Tel: 07585 594473
 Email: serenamaryhall@gmail.com

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN MARCH

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Eileen Florence Webb at Chediston
 Anne Doreen Milsom at Linstead
 Phyllis Ransby at Waveney Memorial Park



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"WAY OF THE CROSS"

Stations by Iain McKillop

A 40 page, A5 booklet featuring text and readings, and illustrated with high quality colour images. Priced at £7.50, this publication is now available to purchase from any of our Blyth Valley churches.

If you are unable to obtain a copy, or you would like to buy a copy as a gift for someone, copies can be sent out via post (+£1.75 p&p). Please telephone the BVTM office on 01986 875941, or email: office.bvtm@gmail.com for further details.

WAY OF THE CROSS

Stations by Iain McKillop



A note on the readings: Generally, harmonising Gospel texts is not encouraged, since each writer had varied theological, spiritual and social reasons for what he included. However I have harmonised the Passion texts here, as some additional details enrich their meaning.

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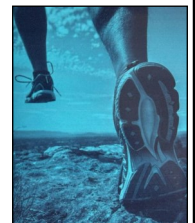
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 07880005783
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Waveney and Blyth Environment Group



**Next meeting:
7.30pm, Thursday 11th April 2024**

Theme: “Planning events for the year ahead”

Everyone from churches across the Waveney and Blyth Deanery is welcome to come and share what they are already doing to promote environmental issues and to discuss new ideas.

Please note change of venue:

**Community Café
Saxons Way,
Halesworth
Suffolk, IP19 8LU**

For more details contact: Revd Alison Alder
alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk / 01502 478855

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

A little bit of history: 5. The Slavery Connection

A plaque on the outside of Bank House at 35 Thoroughfare in Halesworth reads: *PRISCILLA BUXTON Resident 1839 – 55. The campaigning daughter of Thomas Buxton Brt to liberate all slaves. Married Andrew Johnston agent for Gurneys Bank on 1st August 1834 the day emancipation Act was passed.*

Three monuments on the outer north aisle wall in the church commemorate members of the Johnston family. At the east end of the aisle is the monument to Andrew Johnston (1798-1862), who was elected Whig MP for the five burghs of East Fife in 1831. In 1834 he married Priscilla (1808-1852 - the plaque mentioned above is incorrect), an ardent anti-slavery campaigner and daughter of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton MP and Hannah Gurney, and in 1839 Johnston was appointed Director of the Gurneys Turner & Brightwen Bank in Halesworth, later part of Barclays Bank. Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton piloted the Emancipation Bill abolishing slavery through to Law in 1834, assisted in this by Andrew Johnston amongst many others.

The women, daughters, wives and widows, involved in anti-slavery activities usually came from similar, well-to-do, middle-class backgrounds to the men, and they had to fit their efforts around their particular responsibilities – house-keeping, the direction of household servants, bringing up often large families of children, and caring for the sick and elderly, as well as, for many, some input into a family business.

Abolition of slavery was often a family concern as can be seen by Priscilla's involvement. Thomas Fowell Buxton and Samuel Gurney, amongst others, were both on the national committee of the Anti-Slavery Society, whilst their wives and

daughters tended to local ladies' associations and supportive activities of their male relatives. From 1832 Priscilla was co-secretary of the London Female Anti-Slavery Society, not being able to join the Anti-Slavery Society, part-founded by her father, which was only open to men. She was her father's confidante, later described by abolitionist George Stephen, as 'guardian angel' to Buxton, 'his secretary, his librarian, his comforter, and often as his adviser and guide'.

Women were not allowed to view proceedings in the Houses of Parliament and Priscilla could only hear her father speak via a ventilation shaft! However, women could raise petitions and, in 1833, Priscilla helped to organise one of the first, 187,000 signatures against slavery. It was the largest ever abolitionist petition and took two people to carry it, but was nevertheless laughed at in parliament. Her husband and her father lost their seats in the 1837 election.

A little after her wedding in 1834, at a reception for men to celebrate the emancipation of slaves, a toast was raised to Priscilla, 'that she might long rejoice in the fetters put on that day as well as over those which she had assisted to break!' Priscilla and Andrew had four children. They were parents of MP Andrew Johnston and grandfather of designer Edward Johnston (the son of his younger son, Fowell Buxton Johnston). Edward Johnston, was famed for designing the typeface used throughout the London Underground system and redesigning the famous roundel symbol.

Have you noticed the stone carving of an African head on the exterior of the south aisle? Is it a reminder of the abolition of slavery?

Jenny Janes

BVTimes Subscription Renewals 2024-2025

It is fast approaching the time for *BVTimes* home delivery subscribers to renew their subscriptions please.

(2023-24 subscriptions expire with the May'24 issue).

If you wish to renew for a further year, payment can be made to your local delivery person or to the BVTM office in St Mary's church Halesworth. *(The office is open on Tues and Thurs, 9am - 1pm).*

Alternatively, the fee can be paid directly into the *BVTimes* bank account.

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Thank You from Janet Walkey

I want to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who has sent me 'Get Well' and 'Thinking of You' cards, flowers, bulbs, flowering plants and cakes, since my operation at Norfolk & Norwich Hospital on February 6th. Thank you especially to members of Café Church, the Team choir, MU members in Halesworth and Wenhaston, members of St Peter's, Holton and St Mary's, Halesworth, and not forgetting the clergy.

I am very appreciative of those drivers who have kindly given up their time to drive Malcolm and me to my weekly appointments back at NNUH on Friday afternoons.

I am making progress, but my recovery is taking longer than I thought it would. The Community Nurses were calling every day, but are now coming every other day. Apart from hospital appointments, I have only had two outings since my operation, to have lunch in Halesworth with our youngest daughter, Sarah and her son Ben, our youngest grandchild.

I have now heard the results of the histology and have had good news. I am pleased to say that I have been told I will not need to have Radiotherapy.

I have really felt supported and uplifted by everyone's prayers. Thank you to everyone.

Janet Walkey



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

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

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

NEWS FROM HALESWORTH LIBRARY

Life as an artist, talk at Halesworth Library

A life long painter, Suffolk born Tessa Newcomb will be giving a talk on the pleasures and difficulties of life as an artist at Halesworth Library on Thursday 18th April at 2.30pm. A painter of the every day, Tessa's paintings have been described as the observed and the imagined intertwined and reflecting the places she paints. Her pictures have been shown extensively in East Anglia and she has had nine shows at the Crane Kalman Gallery in London.

Tessa is a patron of The Friends of Halesworth Library and supports their work in providing improved facilities at the library. The event and the refreshments are free but donations to the Friends are always welcome. As this is expected to be a popular session it helps if you would sign up in advance, by calling the library on 01986 875095 or emailing friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com

Sociable Sundays

Meet new people and enjoy good conversation over a cuppa and cake in the welcoming space of the library.

Sunday 7th and 21st April, 10.30am – 12.30pm (every other Sunday) Halesworth Library, free entry, suggested donation.

Board Games Cafe

Join in with our monthly board games session for all ages and abilities. Monday 29th April, 2pm – 4pm (last Monday of the month) Halesworth Library, free entry.



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Friends of St Mary's Halesworth

2024 marks the 10th Anniversary season of the Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) recital series. Over the past 10 years thousands of pounds have been raised to support the regeneration/recreation of our beloved building.



On Wednesday 13th March, the 2024 season kicked off with our very own organist at St Mary's, Jason Busby.

Our Team Rector and Chair of the Recreation Committee gave an update on proceedings, the different stages approaching and work to make the building watertight which must be completed before we can make internal improvements on décor, layout and facilities such as running water!

The March recital called 'Hymns and Preludes' required audience participation and they didn't disappoint, joining in the hymns chosen, then sitting back and listening to a piece based on said hymn. The BIG screen was out, what a difference being able to see the organ loft, the workings of what exactly organists do stuck underneath all those pipes.

Hymns enjoyed included *Guide me O thou great redeemer*, *Praise to the Lord the almighty King of creation*, *I vow to thee my country* and several more.

For the second time all the *Preludes* and *Concerto* encore at the end came from Paul Key. A very talented young musician from Germany, whom Jason follows and enjoys learning his music. From the FULL organ to the delicate flutes, the trumpet and horn to the soft *Lieblich Gedact* on the choir organ. Jason demonstrated the versatility of the pipe organ and even gave us a quick lesson on the 2ft, 4ft, 8ft, 16ft pipes that make up the KING OF INSTRUMENTS. Many thanks to Jason once again for starting the 2024 season, a very enjoyable lunchtime had by all.

On Wednesday 10th April, 12pm for 12.30pm, we welcome singing students of Alexander Campkin, Jane Linden and Pat Wood, accompanied by Tom Horton. Please note this recital will take place in St Edmund's Roman Catholic church just round the corner from St Mary's. See you then.

Tamsyn Imison Community Award

After some delay and the reversion of the organisation to Michael Imison, the Tamsyn Imison Community Award for 2022 will be presented by Poet and Film Maker Dean Parkin to the Halesworth *dementia* Carers Fund at 11am on Saturday 27th April at St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

There will be contributions from Tamsyn's friend Terri Broughton and Professor Robert Howard, dementia expert. All Halesworth residents are welcome and voting papers will be available for the 2024 award in the Parish Church.

Michael Imison

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Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
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Heveningham	Jeanette Griffin	01986 798280
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Spexhall	Keith Noakes	07939 527340
Thorington	Mike Gower	01502 478078
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Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	01986 873173

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

On Wednesdays and Fridays, the Team
Administrator can be contacted on
07752 275328 (between 9am - 1pm).

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Blyth Valley Team Ministry

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.
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News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442

acackett@me.com

On Friday 22nd March at All Saints church, artist Iain McKillop spoke about his creative encounters with the Stations of the Cross concept. Many thanks to Iain. Copies of the booklet "Way of the Cross" are available from the church, priced at £7.50 each.

An outdoor work party is being held at All Saints church Blyford on Saturday 20th April, 10am - 1pm, with a break for refreshments at Blyford Queen's Head. For more information, contact (via WhatsApp or text) 07881 865709.

Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson

07986 217868

joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

From St Andrew's, Bramfield PCC:

"Your Church Needs You!"

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our small band of council members has been reduced in numbers and we are asking you, if you have any time to spare, to consider joining our team of volunteers to help keep our historical church going. You do not have to be a church-goer but if you have a sense of the importance of community and would like to see the church open for future generations as a place of peace and sanctuary where services, christenings, weddings and funerals can be held to celebrate and to mourn at life's important crossroads we would welcome you on-board.

As well as general members we do need

a committee to run our PCC : we hold lively meetings as well as fund raise so that we can maintain and run this ancient building and churchyard, as well as donating to charity.

The important position of Treasurer has become vacant as Helen has been advised by her doctors to give up this responsibility. As Dominic, our Team Rector, says we need someone who can add up, has time, patience, and common sense.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact Jinnie on 07780833450, or email us on:

standrewsbramfield@gmail.com

From Jinnie Barham, Churchwarden:

Church Coffee Morning

On Saturday 13th April, from 10am-1pm, we are having a Church Coffee Morning in the Bramfield Village Hall to raise money for the church fabric fund.

We may also hold a jumble sale as well. Any donations of jumble can be dropped off in the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

From Dawn Munnings:

Recently, we had another attempt at clearing up some of the churchyard. Armed with a merry band of volunteers, we tackled some of the dead stalks and weeds around the back of the churchyard. The weather was glorious, everyone was keen and we achieved quite a lot, although it may not look it!

Much of the older part of the churchyard is left to grow wild for the benefit of the wildlife. There is just too much for a small band of volunteers to manage, and although we are very lucky in that we have regular

donations from kind patrons towards the upkeep of the churchyard, it simply doesn't make a dent in the work that would be needed to keep the entire churchyard mowed and tidy. So we do what we can and hopefully it looks nice. Many, many grateful thanks to everyone who was able to help.

APCM

The APCM will be held on Wednesday 24th April, 7pm-7.30pm, in the church. Villagers are welcome to attend and there will be tea and cake.

St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

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

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



Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

In spite of all the rain we've had, spring is with us, hedgerows are turning green, various blossoms are coming out and the grass is growing. We have longer days even before the clocks change at the end of the month. However, bad weather unfortunately could still prevail but hopefully the farmers will be able to get on with their spring drilling and cheer up our rather forlorn looking fields. Summer awaits and there is much to look forward to.

Mothering Sunday 10th March

We welcomed the Revd Gini who took our service. The congregation was increased and it was good to have Doug Cady's nephew and his wife with us. During the service planted daffodils in pots were distributed to the mothers in the congregation. Many thanks to Joanna for organising this, also cakes and coffee for everyone was laid out at the back of the church and much appreciated.



Iain McKillop speaking at All Saints Blyford

Chediston & Linstead WI

Our birthday lunch on March 12th was held at the Spexhall Huntsman & Hounds. Thanks to Heather Vincent a very good time was had by all. We were well looked after with an excellent lunch with much laughter and chatter. Our next meeting is Tuesday 9th April, the speaker will be Trevor Garnham who will tell us all about the Arts & Crafts movement.

Easter Services



I note that there is a Good Friday service on March 29th at Wissett to be taken by the Revd Vic Hopkins at 10am (followed by coffee and hot cross buns). Our own Easter Day service is at 8am and will be taken by the Revd Dominic, but please do check details in *BVTimes*.

Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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

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



Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336

halesworthparish@gmail.com

"Lent is a journey, and the first stop is the desert. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished." — Matthew 4:1:2! The resurrection is the most powerful moment in history. There is life today, offered for all — because Christ is risen. Because the tomb is empty, our hearts are full. Happy Easter! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" — March was a quiet month in the life of St Mary's. A chance to focus on Lent, our own well being

and journey. The Stations of the Cross were breath-taking!

Many congratulations to everyone involved. The accompanying book is now available for sale. "Be, Lord, for us, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the gate that offers us a secure fold, the Son who shines on us the light of God. We reach from the shadows for your guiding ways to lift out spirits from the hopeless grave, raise us, with you, to truth and trust and love!"

Now if March was a quiet month, April is anything but! Brace yourselves and get your diaries out because April is FULL ON!

Friday 5th, 7.30pm, Chanter's Jigge Concert; **Saturday 6th**, 12.30pm, lunchtime recital by The Aurora Consort; **Wednesday 10th**, **NO** 10am Holy Communion (this has been cancelled due to the INK FESTIVAL taking over St Mary's). Also on the **10th**, 12.30pm, FoSM Recital in the **Catholic Church**. **INK FESTIVAL 11th-15th** various shows in Church; **Saturday 20th**, 2.30pm, St George's Parade; **Monday 22nd**, 7pm, The Bohemian Girls Choir. Phew and rest!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE come and support these concerts and events, tell your friends and family. We can't continue to put these events on if no-one turns up! Thank you.

Looking ahead to May, the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will take place on **Wednesday 8th May**, 6.30pm for tea/coffee, wine and nibbles with the meeting starting at 7pm. The annual church meeting is where elections for various Church roles take place and the annual accounts and reports from PCC subcommittees are presented. This is your opportunity to come and share, elect, and encourage everyone who works so hard behind the

scenes of St Mary's to keep the doors open.

Finally from me this month, a BIG thank you to C J Electrical of Ipswich who have completed the works to the upgraded floodlights at St Mary's. (Photos below). Seeing the tower illuminated from both the Norwich and London roads brings a smile to my face. It is now much safer around the church after dark. The lights have been upgraded to LED for energy efficiency, they switch off at midnight and new downlights at the north porch and south path entrance have been fitted. This was funded using interest accrued from the Deering legacy.

ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

Result of the 50/50 Club March draw was as follows: 1st prize: Ann Wilkinson; 2nd prize: William Pagan; 3rd prize: Jill Hewlett.

HALESWORTH WI

Members listened attentively as David Wollwebber told us of Halesworth in the 1840s. It appeared to be completely self-sufficient with bakeries, butchers, cobblers, watchmakers, tailors etc. Halesworth did not come high on the list of having a majority of law abiding citizens compared to nearby towns, we obviously were more lawless in those days, perhaps this was not helped by the numerous public houses situated around the town. We, unlike today had banks, there were many places of work and most transport was by foot or horse.

We looked forward to our next meeting a slideshow of the Galapagos Islands and were not disappointed as Chris Parfitt told us of his trip to Ecuador and something of that country, we were amazed to learn that most of the roses we buy are grown there then sold



through the flower markets in Holland. Ecuador is on the equator, having many volcanoes most now extinct but which supply excellent soil for growing crops, some transported to market using llamas which are still used as pack animals. The sunrises at 6am and sets at 6pm every day. We saw the making of the famous panama hats and a wide variety of local beautiful crafts. We then moved on to the 12 Galapagos Islands, which lay 600 miles off shore, he was only able to visit four during his trip and numbers allowed are limited so as not to disturb the wildlife. You have to follow the paths and not wander as the wildlife is unused to modern life and is completely tame, No interaction is allowed with the animals or birds which is very difficult as they tend to approach people. Seals lay across paths, iguanas bask in the sun and giant tortoises lumber past. There are seven different Darwin finches and three booby birds, blue footed, red footed and masked, tame enough to sit in a bush, when you pull back the branch to inspect them they remain seated and unafraid. **BP**

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

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



Heveningham

Correspondent Jeanette Griffin
stmargarechurch11@gmail.com

I think March is one of my favourite months, when Spring starts and the daffodils and primroses are plentiful. Everything looks a lot brighter after the winter months and a lot of rain. We started March with our first coffee morning and welcomed local villagers with tea, coffee and cake. This was a lovely chance to get together and meet new people from our local villages. We also talked about fundraising ideas and

we have the start of an events committee to help plan for future events. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.



Our Sunday service this month fell on Mothers' Day and we held a family service celebrating a mother's love across the world and ages, in association with the Mothers' Union charity and our service also raised money for this good cause. The Revd Alison Alder put together a very thought-provoking and lively service, which was enjoyed by all.

March is also hosting the Walk the Way of the Cross event and a pilgrimage was held across all 14 churches of the Blyth Valley Benefice on March 23rd.

Dates for your diary

April 14th: 10am, Holy Communion service. **April 16th:** 10am, Coffee Morning. **April 21st and 25th:** 10.30am - 12.30pm, churchyard tidy-up. Please come and join us to help out with preparing our churchyard for the summer. Refreshments available.

Our PCC is in need of a Secretary. If you are able to spare a couple of hours a month, please get in touch with me for further details.

Jeanette

St Margaret's Church, Heveningham

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

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

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



Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett
01986 875913

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

St Peter's Church, Holton

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

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



The first item in this month's Holton column is an apology from me for missing out so much from last month's column! Fortunately all the information could be found in the rest of the magazine, I hope you found it.

You may receive this copy just before Easter Sunday, or more likely, just after when we are recovering from all the emotions of Lent and the events of Holy Week. As I write we have still to "Walk the Way of the Cross" round the churches of the Blyth Valley contemplating and meditating on the Stations of the Cross created by artist Iain McKillop. John and I went to All Saints Blyford on March 15th to hear a full set of reflections on each Station by Bishop Mike Harrison. It was a memorable evening, full of imagery and insight. We also intend to go to a talk by Iain this coming Friday about the meaning of the Stations as the creator of the images. I don't know how far round the churches we will manage to get, but we will certainly be at Holton for 10am!

Thank you to everyone who came to our two Lent Lunches when we were raising money for Embrace the Middle East, I'm sure you will be delighted and pleased that we were able to send of a cheque for £232. A very big thank you to all our soup makers and kitchen helpers, without whose help it would not happen.

As mentioned last month, our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Wednesday 17th April, 7pm for 7.30pm.

The Parochial Church Council needs new members, numbers have dwindled and there are not enough people to do the job, and to bring new ideas. If you know anyone who might be interested in what we do at St Peter's and the way we are organised and supported, do encourage them to come along, this meeting is open to anyone in the Parish. Drinks and nibbles in St Peter's Room from 7pm.

The Car Boot Sale

St Peter's have been holding an annual, successful and enjoyable Car Boot Sale for over 25 years and 2024 is no exception. It will be held on the Church Paddock starting at 10am on Saturday 4th May. As usual, the booters will turn up early, welcomed by the smell of bacon frying on the barbecue, followed later by hot dogs, and burgers. It's a great day out, with our refreshment tent selling home-made cakes and sausage rolls which are always winners. There will be raffles and our church stall, with all proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church.

Mary Curtis 01986 874622

Advance notices for your diary

The next Labyrinth event will be held on Monday 8th April at St Peter's between 2pm and 4pm.

St Peter's will be holding its Flower Festival on July 27th and 28th from 10am until 4pm. The theme for this year is "Our favourite childhood stories", these can be those stories you enjoyed as a child or the ones you enjoyed reading to your own children. So, get your thinking caps on everyone.

SPEEDING TRAFFIC IN HOLTON

We continue to receive emails from parishioners regarding the speed and courtesy of drivers when they are driving through the village.

I recently spoke to a member of the safety Camera Enforcement Team regarding the concerns raised by parishioners regarding speeding in the village.

He explained that for matters to be looked into by Suffolk Constabulary and the safety camera enforcement team to act, parishioners should report all incidents of speeding and/or dangerous/thoughtless driving. This can be done via Suffolk Constabulary website www.suffolk.police.uk via a link.

Please follow these instructions if you

are affected by this and as a result we may improve matters for the village. We would appreciate your help with this.

Elaine Day 07867423076

Clerk Holton Parish Council

clerk@holtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke

sally.clarke@live.com

Depending on when you are reading this, 'Don't forget to change your clocks at the end of March' or 'Welcome to British Summer time!' A time when the days are longer and we can achieve so much more inside and outside the house. The opening times of the church also change, for the summer it is open seven days a week 10.30am - 5.30pm This means that our band of volunteers can open and lock up in daylight. If you would like to bring visitors to the church we can offer guided tours and refreshments if needed, for a small donation to church funds. There are copies of the novel 'The Huntingfield Paintress' available to buy at £10 copy. Contact Emma (churchwarden 01986 785343). You may recall we recently bought a new ladder for the Bell Tower and asked for suggestions on how to install it. Many thanks for the suggestions received. We particularly liked the one that suggested: We tie Emma to one end of a long piece of rope and the ladder to the other end. Then carefully lower Emma from the outside of the tower whilst the ladder would slowly rise up to the top of the tower. Well, the day arrived and Emma was nowhere to be seen...

The photos below show the ladder installation in progress.



On Saturday 27th April we are hosting a 'Bird Walk'. This has proved very popular in the past, appealing to all ages. If you are interested in joining us, please gather at the church just after 7am. There will be tea and coffee available and possibly croissants to set you up. At 7.30am the walk will commence led by our very own ornithologist Tony Howe. Tony will lead us on a walk identifying different birds and birdsong. A most enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours.

If you have time to spare and you have worked up an appetite then The Monthly Brunch at £5pp (£2.50 for children) will be served in the Hub from 10am. We look forward to your company.

**St Mary's Church,
Huntingfield**

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

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




Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

THE NEWS THAT WE HAVE HAD THE wettest February since records began



has, I suppose, been slightly reassuring. As water came over the tops of my gardening shoes, just standing on the lawn, I couldn't shake off the feeling that it was a bit unusual. I even went so far as to buy myself a rain gauge, nothing high-tech, just a funnel. I think that did the trick, because relatively (I stress relatively) little rain has fallen since, even though I understand that we had the average rainfall for March - in the first two weeks.

Still, things are bound to improve - aren't they?

THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE IS determined to cheer us all up, because:

Linstead welcomes
The Sugar Beatniks
A Blues & Jazz Duo
To play at
LINSTEAD VILLAGE HALL
on SATURDAY 27th APRIL
from 7pm.
With
PLOUGHMANS & PUDS
£10 PER PERSON
Raffle
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
LIQUID REFRESHMENT
To assist us with numbers for
catering, please contact either the
Keables (01986 785347)
or the Heaths (01986 785289)

AS AN ADDED BONUS, YOU WILL BE able to admire the new Village Hall fencing, which is currently in course of construction. We are grateful to those involved in the working parties that have been bringing this about.

THE GREAT LINSTEAD LITTER-PICK took place in March and we are grateful to all who took part. The result was, apart from the usual litter, an interesting collection of car parts and a large plastic pallet. However, there was a consensus of opinion that, for the second year running, there was an overall reduction in rubbish. The underlying truth is that litter goes where litter already is, so breaking the vicious cycle is so important. There are spots which seem popular with litter-louts. One can only assume that, in some clandestine and untidy way, the litterers communicate with one another; a faintly disturbing thought. Anyway, the trend is good and once again, thanks to all who are helping it along. This was underlined by

a passing motorist who made a point of stopping and thanking a litter-picker for her work.

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI celebrated its birthday in March, with a luncheon at The Huntsman and Hounds, in Spexhall. I am reliably informed that they had a very good time. They meet in April at 2.20pm on the 9th at Linstead Village Hall. The speaker is Trevor Garnham who will tell them about 'The Arts & Crafts Movement'. THERE WILL BE A SERVICE OF HOLY Communion on Sunday 28th April at 10am.

DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING

1st No Service
 8th Mrs P Keable & Mr D Keable
 15th, 22nd & 29th No Service

Spexhall

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

St Peter's Church,
Spexhall
 has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.
 Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-spexhall>
 or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.




'Can you hear me Mother?'

Well mother, I think you may be able to hear your Woodpecker offspring in the churchyard and around the Old Rectory at the moment, as I make my presence heard. I am giving the jackdaws a run for their money, and appreciate the high class food which is being provided by kindly humans. I continue to be amazed at the wonderful primroses and daffodils as I fly over the church, especially those at the east side. Why not spend a few moments, or even hours, sitting on Dennis's bench to enjoy the peace which comes in our churchyard, which I know the PCC try to keep friendly to wildlife, whilst making it accessible to those who tend the graves of loved

ones. The church is also open to all for quiet reflection and prayer. Light a candle and leave a prayer if you would like.

A Grave Map, a Funeral and the end of an era

What a joy it was to be able to mark on the grave map of the church the grave of Mabel Tarzie Jesse Brown whose grave remained unmarked until a photograph was discovered which had been kept by Reggie Brown, her son who died recently. It enabled us to identify where she had been laid to rest. In time a memorial stone will be placed there.

Reggie was laid to rest as near to his mother as we could arrange, and his funeral was a great tribute to him, attended by so many farmers, friends and neighbours who had known Reggie over his 87 years. A wonderful eulogy was read by Lindsay, his niece, who not only gave a moving, touching and humorous portrait of a real 'character', but also played traditional tunes on the squeezebox accordion as Reggie was brought into the church and as he was committed to his final resting place. Thanks to all involved in organising this memorable occasion in village life, including a cortege of three tractors from Wissett to Spexhall. Woodpecker thinks they were all Massey Fergusons, but not quite sure of that. Memories abounded at the wake in memory of a hard working family who had been in the area for generations. May Reggie, and his family, rest in peace.



Mothering Sunday

I know everyone calls it Mother's Day now, but our small number celebrated our mothers and carers with potted Primulas and lovely bunches of flowers provided by Patricia.



Woodpecker wasn't impressed by the person leading the service, but at least his lack of qualifications meant that he didn't have a licence to preach. Instead a sonnet from Christina Rossetti was read, whose final lines resonate with so many of us

'And so because you love me, and because I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honoured name'
 ('Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome, Christina Rossetti).



The Way of the Cross, the Tenebrae and the Easter Services

Spexhall is hosting the third of the Stations of the Cross to be used in the pilgrimage before Palm Sunday. We feel a special honour to be the church which hosts the Tenebrae Service for the Team churches on Good Friday. It is an especially good time to reflect on what the suffering of Jesus means to us, and we enjoy seeing our friends from throughout the Team parishes join us.

The Easter Service is yet to happen as this copy goes to print, but Woodpecker is waiting with bated

breath to see what is revealed by Fred and Judy, as they set ever higher standards in Easter millinery.

The Village Hall

How astounding it was that Woodpecker got knowledge of a Village Quiz Night to be held on Tuesday 31st May! Fancy the committee getting around to planning something so far ahead! There is also a plan for an Italian lunch on August 4th. Now that is forward looking. Details to follow. Ciao for now!

Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower 01502 478078

trish@coastal1.plus.com

TEA AND CAKE

AND ANNUAL MEETING

Thorington Parochial Church Council invite you for tea and cake at 2pm on Saturday 14th April at the church, followed by their annual meeting. Do come along and meet the committee, enjoy this beautiful church and surrounding churchyard filled with wild flowers - there are a couple of benches outside to sit and admire this wonderful historic round tower church. The walk over the marshes from Wenhaston is well worth it! Anyone wishing to know more about the church, services etc please see page 3 of this magazine or contact: trish@coastal1.plus.com

Walpole

Correspondents

Lee & Anita Hill 07713 450078

anita.hill2006@gmail.com

St Mary's Church, Walpole

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

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



As we move towards the two year anniversary of our first service which marked the re-opening of St Mary's,

we have some good news to share regarding the renovations. Our appointed builder has given us a start date of April 2nd and indicated that the work could take up to eight weeks. Depending on the schedule of the interior decorations, our April service may have to be cancelled. We will of course give plenty of notice should this be the case.

At the beginning of March a small working party gathered in the churchyard to prepare the ground and sow wild flower seeds in an area that was void of vegetation. If this proves successful we will be looking to sow more seeds in other areas of the churchyard to encourage wildlife biodiversity.

We were fortunate to host the first Evensong of the year on March 10th which coincided with Mothering Sunday. Our thanks go to Dominic and the Team choir for making this special day a joyous occasion for all present. To take advantage of this month's colour publication, we would like to share with you some artwork of the church painted by two artists resident in Walpole. Our thanks go to Judy and Sara for their submissions.



Judy Mattin



Sara Sayer

Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

margaret@wrush.plus.com

St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

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

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



We were joined by our Methodist friends for the Mothering Sunday Service and welcomed Diana to preside. Everyone was given a posy and enjoyed Simnel cake and coffee afterwards. Thank you to Louisa for handing out the flowers!

We have a service at 10am on Easter Day, which falls at the end of March and are serving teas on Easter Monday from 3pm to 5pm. Hopefully you may receive your copy of *BVTimes* before this, to remind you. The church will be decorated with lilies, given in memory of people, as well as Spring flowers.

Reminder of future events

We are having our Plant Sale on Saturday 11th May in the churchyard, and are hoping to have a concert in church on Saturday 20th July by Sing Out Yoxford. The quiz which had to be postponed due to flooding last year has been re-scheduled for Friday 18th October in the Village Hall. Please put these dates in your diaries as we need your support. Thank you.

April Services

- 7th 10am Team Service, Holy Communion, with Licensing of Readers, St Mary's Halesworth.
- 14th 10.30am Ecumenical Communion at Methodist Chapel.
- 21st 10am Holy Communion, St Peter's.
- 28th 10am Pause for Thought, St Peter's.

WENHASTON M U

We were very privileged at our March meeting to have the Revd Iain McKillop with us to lead us through his amazing paintings of The Stations of the Cross. I think that each one of us who was at the gathering interpreted each painting in a different way, but were able to take something to help us on our personal journeys through Christ's crucifixion. There was much food for thought.

At our April meeting we look forward to a talk about a visit to Kagira.

This, again, should be a very interesting talk and anyone who would like to join us for the afternoon will be very welcome.

Margaret G (01502 478378)

Wenhaston Walkers

Two walks in April. The first on Tuesday 2nd, will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

The second on Tuesday 16th April leaving the White Hart, Blythburgh IP19 9LQ at 10am. Details of lunch arrangements at the White Hart will be circulated in due course.

If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email: ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

We commenced our 2024 program with a wonderful demonstration by Janet Dye.

Janet was a new demonstrator to us but she inspired us all with some interesting techniques especially in her arrangement of tulips and roses without the use of floral foam. We hope Janet will become one of our regular demonstrators.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd April and, as usual, it is in Wenhaston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

This meeting is going to be something completely new for us. The evening is entitled "Members Take Over".

Some of our more experienced arrangers will be our demonstrators for the evening.

It will be an excellent evening and look forward to welcoming you all.

As usual it is only £5 on the night including tea/coffee and biscuits.

Raffle prizes always welcome.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery on 01502 478401.



Janet with some of her beautiful arrangements.

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.com

Mid March as I write this but the last few days have felt like April with daffodils dancing in the breeze,



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primroses in abundance on the banks, birds singing, bees buzzing on the pussy willow and now the promise of new life at Easter.

Our Mothering Sunday service was well attended and very enjoyable. Everyone received a primrose in a pot and the church smelt glorious with the perfume of a beautiful display of stocks now giving a cheerful welcome in the porch. Thank you Susan Fitch!

We are trying to encourage more wildlife in Wissett and the churchyard has a new bird box on the big tree by the church shed. See if you can spot it next time you are passing.

I am hoping still to have daffodils in flower ready for decorating the church for Easter.

Anne Andrews is providing the hot-cross buns after our Good Friday Stations of the Cross service at 10am, up a gentle slope rather than up the hill, to her house afterwards.

Wissett's depiction of Peter's Denial by Iain McKillop is displayed in the quiet space for private prayer, behind the organ.

The church is open every day. I know many come for many reasons, not just to our services and I expect many will be able to enjoy the flowers, the peace and beauty of our church over Easter.

On April 23rd it is our Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council at 7.30pm, but we will be serving refreshments, probably wine and

cheese biscuits, if I know Wissett... and I do.

This is a public, open meeting and every Wissett resident is warmly welcomed! The PCC works to keep the church going for the village. It belongs to and is for everyone so do come and meet us.

Thank you as always to all those who help with looking after the church, the flowers, brass cleaning.

April cleaning rota:

7th Charlotte Pringle and Jane Parry

14th Janice Bathgate and Veronica Catchpole

21st Gill Bailey and Linda Clarke

28th Mary Pester and Camilla Prior
Oh to be in Wissett now that April's here! An extra hour to play outside as the clocks spring forward.

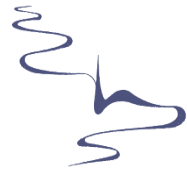
St Andrew's Church, Wissett

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

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



Easter Services



Holy Week in the Blyth Valley

MARCH

- 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY**
 6pm | St Marys Halesworth | The Maundy Thursday Liturgy
- 29 GOOD FRIDAY** | Walk of Witness
 Churches Together | 10am | Starting at Halesworth URC
- GOOD FRIDAY** | Stations of the Cross
 10am | St Andrews Wissett
- GOOD FRIDAY** | Tenebrae
 8pm | St Peters Spexhall
- 30 Easter Vigil** | Service of Light
 6pm | St Marys Halesworth | Service begins outside the tower

Easter Sunday Family Service with Holy Communion

10am St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Followed by an Easter Egg hunt!
 All Welcome



HALESWORTH ASH EVENTS 2024

Growing out of the Climate Action Conference, Halesworth Area Sustainable Hub (Halesworth ASH) is organising an event every month, focusing on initiatives to mitigate the climate emergency by reducing carbon usage and sequestering carbon.

APRIL 7th Sunday - Earlsway Farm

Walk and talk around the complex issues to do with land management, food, farming and climate. Thanks to Richard Symes, organised by Halesworth Ash.

This event is free, but please email halesworthash@gmail.com and let us know if you are planning to come so we can estimate numbers. 10am—1pm. Meet at Earlsway Farm 9.45am for a prompt start at 10am. Bramfield, IP19 9AD

MAY 18th-19th - We're farming out to Wakelyns Agroforestry

Come and see organic agroforestry in action at one of the oldest most diverse agroforestry sites in Europe, here in Suffolk. Guided walks, information, delicious food and lots more. A fun community event for everyone with an interest in agroecological farming and the environment. Free admission but registration required:

www.wakelyns.co.uk/aow/

Welcome to join these or other events 2024 - full details are on our website - <https://halesworthash.com/>

Halesworth Ash is a joint venture of Halesworth Town Council and Blyth Valley Churches

If you are a member of a group or organisation and you would like to share your monthly news, reports or activities with the local community, please email your articles to *Blyth Valley Times*:
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

NEWBY BOOKS ON SALE

"THE CENTURY I SAW"

by Donald Newby

£9.99 from Halesworth & District Museum,
and Halesworth Bookshop.

Proceeds to local charities.

"HALESWORTH STREET and PLACE NAMES"

by Derek Newby

£6.99 from Halesworth & District Museum,
Halesworth Bookshop and Heathside Stores
Wenhaston.

Proceeds to Halesworth & District Museum.

"MEMORIES & STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH"

by James W Newby

£7.99 available from St Mary's Church.

Proceeds to St Mary's Halesworth Regeneration etc.

"The LIFE and TIMES of DEREK NEWBY"

£9.99, an autobiography.

Proceeds to local charities and EA Air Ambulance.

For more information, see Derek Newby You Tube
and www.newbysofhalesworth.com



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

Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline

0808 208 2138

South Norfolk Early Help Hub

01508 533933

Halesworth Volunteers

01986 875600

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

ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

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

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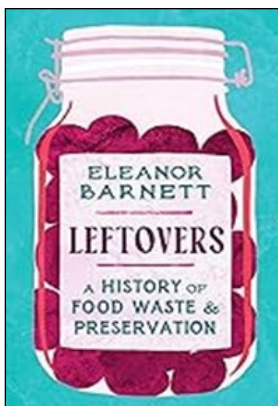


SIGN OF THE FISH is open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am – 1pm; (Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays closed). Tel: 07770 465785

Waste not, want not and the healthy life

Last week I diligently counted every piece of plastic used before sending it to the recycling bin or the outright rubbish bin, and I expect many of you did too. This count was initiated in 2022 by an organisation called Everyday Plastic together with Greenpeace and in just **one week 6.5 million pieces** were counted by a quarter of a million households, the amount collected by every household in the country is horrible to contemplate, especially as only 12% was actually recycled, so as Greenpeace reported “our findings made it clear: recycling can’t fix the plastics crisis”, there is just way too much being manufactured every day. It will be interesting to see whether this year’s count shows an improvement or a worsening of this national situation, and it’s to be hoped The Global Plastics Treaty currently being negotiated at the UN will take notice of the data.

But there is another waste disaster that we can individually do more about. At a time when so many have to rely on foodbanks, where there is famine in much of the world caused by climate change and war and commercial greed, it is a shame and a scandal that a **third** of worldwide food production goes to waste. Maybe that’s why a review of this very new book caught my eye.



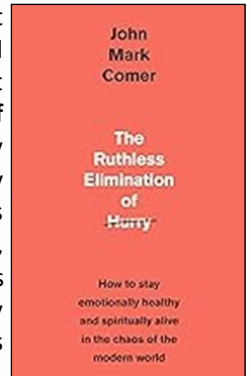
Leftovers: a history of food waste and preservation, by Eleanor Barnett

How did we become so wasteful? Mrs Beeton thought it was becoming a (moral) problem in the 1860s and during the World Wars when rationing was introduced the wilful wasting of food fit for human consumption was illegal.

Leftovers links its central historical focus to humanitarian and environmental issues of urgent

contemporary interest - including climate change, globalisation, scientific advancement, poverty and inequality. And surely it fits in with the church’s eco-drive.

But how do we find the head and heart space to live more simply and thoughtfully? A good place to start might be **The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry, by John Mark Comer**, helpfully subtitled ‘How to stay emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world’. I love this book, every easy-to-read paragraph is quotable and just what I need. Hurry sickness, according to the author leads to irritability, hypersensitivity, restlessness, non-stop activity, emotional numbness, out-of-order priorities, lack of care for your body, escapist behaviours, slippage of spiritual disciplines, and as a consequence we miss out on closeness to God, and with everyone else, leading to isolation. Among other gems the author recommends four practices for unhurrying your life: silence and solitude, sabbath, simplicity, slowing; what’s within those practices is a wealth of wisdom for good living, for example too much “stuff” adds to the clutter and stress in your life; shopping should be intentional with thought given to how much harm it is causing to society, the climate, the individuals making the goods.



Intentional interruptions, by Jonathan Thomas. In a way this could be a companion to Comer’s book above, indeed the author does reference Comer from time to time. Sub-titled ‘learning to be interrupted the way God intended’, it could be said to be for those like me too easily distracted by stuff, the world, rambling thoughts, to-do lists etc., that God’s interruptions are missed. As one reviewer said

“... a gentle nudge from a friend to allow yourself to pause in your own plans to wonder at God’s world... and to reconnect meaningfully with your Lord”

This book will be in Sign of the Fish.

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

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WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

Tuesday 12th March: "As if by Magic": The Secrets of Turner's Watercolour Techniques. *Lecturer: Nicola Moorby*
 Tuesday 9th April: The Art of Winnie-the-Pooh. *Lecturer: James Campbell*
 Lectures commence at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre (St Edmund's Hall), Cumberland Road, Southwold. Visitors and Members' guests welcome, at an entrance fee of £8.

CAR BOOT SALE

SATURDAY 4th MAY, 10am

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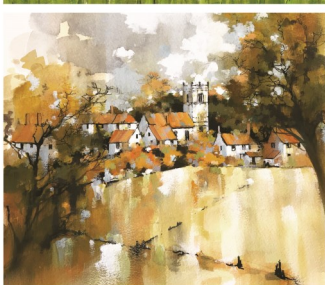
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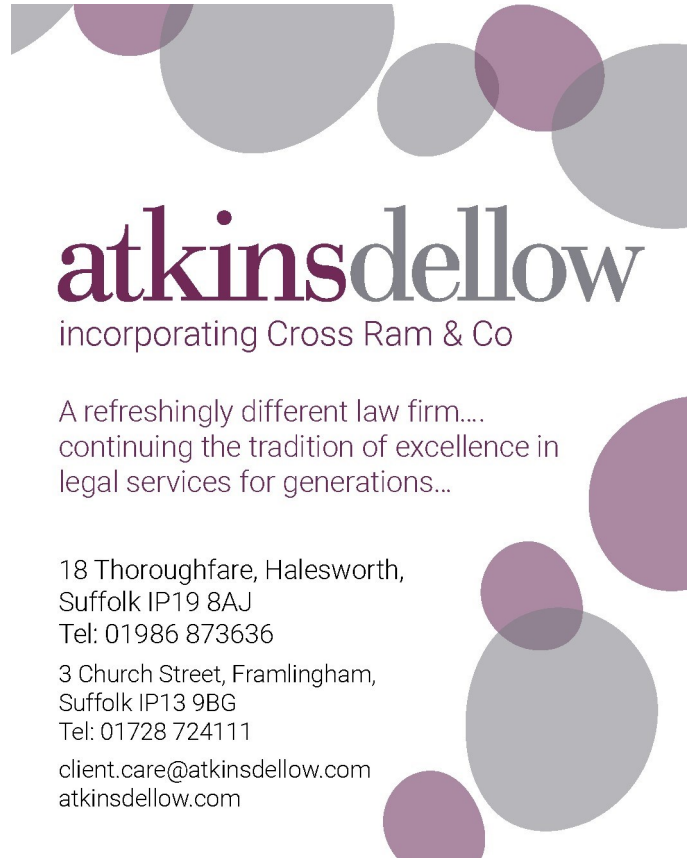


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2024 concert / events highlights

Friday, 5 April

7pm

CHANTER'S JIGGE CONCERT

Songs, ayres, jigs and jollies from around Europe and across the centuries played and sung with ancient traditional and modern instruments

Saturday, 6 April

12noon for 12.30pm

AURORA CONSORT

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's
FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch

Wednesday, 10 April

12noon for 12.30pm

Pat Wood & Jane Linden with Tom Horton (piano) perform - IN ST EDMUNDS RC

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's
FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch

11th - 14th April

www.inkfestival.org

INK FESTIVAL

The UK's leading producer of original short plays take over St. Mary's for a few days! Festival details available soon

Saturday, 20 April

2.30pm

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE & CIVIC SERVICE

We welcome the community for a Parade & Civic Service
The Archdeacon of Suffolk will be preaching

Monday, 22 April

7pm

THE BOHEMIAN CHOIR - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF LIBEREC

A joy to welcome back the girls choir from Liberec to Suffolk.
Programme to follow

Wednesday, 8 May

12noon for 12.30pm

Sopranos Veronica Downing & Wendy Slaney give May's recital

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's
FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch

Wednesday, 8 May

6.30pm

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

6.30pm for tea/coffee, wine & nibbles with the meeting starting at 7pm

Wednesday, 12 June

12noon for 12.30pm

Patrick Crooke & Ben Payne - Violin & Viola

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's
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Wednesday, 17 July

12noon for 12.30pm

Roman Rudnytsky - Pianist

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Saturday, 3 August

timings tbc

BREAD AND WINE FESTIVAL

The second Lammas Bread & Wine Festival is confirmed
Stalls, local producers, worship & more

Saturday, 14 August

timings tbc

Tom Horton - Organ Recital

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Friday, 6 December

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