

December 2023

Volume 44

Issue 12

£1

(where sold)



HALESWORTH SWITCH-ON 2023

On November 18th, Halesworth lit up and there was lots of fun in the Thoroughfare, in the Market Place and in Church. Santa visited, 189 children received presents, stalls offered all sorts of goodies and games and the Revd Alison had a game of putting a muddled-up nativity story into the right order. We were very fortunate that Halesworth Harmony (formerly Halesworth Community Choir) came and sang some beautiful carols and Christmas songs which sounded wonderful in the church.

Love and blessings this Christmas from Blyth Valley Churches.



Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by Blyth Valley Churches.

**To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - minimum donation £12 a year;
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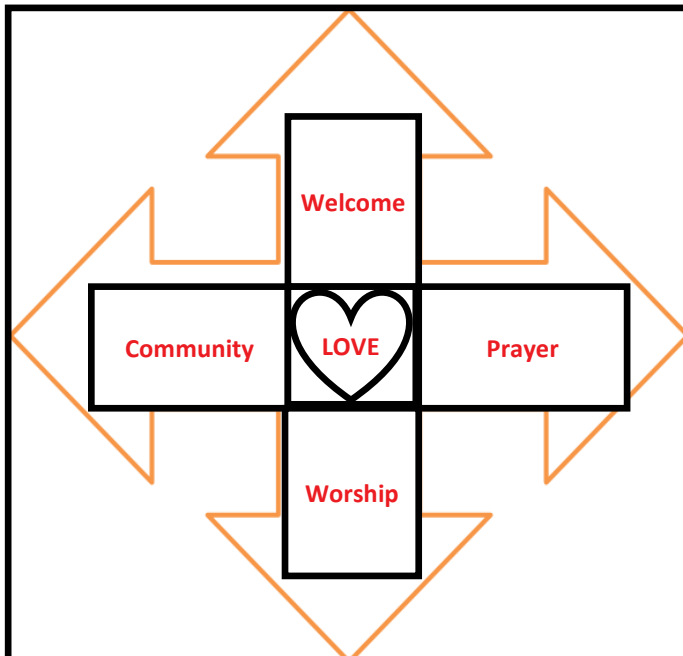
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BVTM TEAM COUNCIL/ PCC TREASURERS' MEETING

The next BVTM Team Council meeting
will be a combined meeting with
PCC Treasurers, to be held on

Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm
St Peter's Room, St Peter's Church, Holton



St. Mary's Church Halesworth

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

[www.youtube.com/
@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
YouTube
CHANNEL

December 2023 Lectionary for Traditional and Holy Communion only.

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

Sunday 3rd

Traditional Communion (KJV) – First in Advent (Purple)

Romans 13: 8 – end

Matthew 21: 1 – 13

Holy Communion (NRSV) – First of Advent (Purple)

1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9

Mark 13: 24 – 37

Sunday 10th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Second in Advent (Purple)

Romans 15: 4 – 13

Luke 21: 25 – 33

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Second of Advent (Purple)

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15

Mark 1: 1 – 8

Sunday 17th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Third in Advent (Purple)

1 Corinthians 4: 1 – 5

Matthew 11: 2 – 10

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Third of Advent (Purple)

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24

John 1: 6 – 8 and 19 – 28

Sunday 24th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Fourth in Advent (Purple)

Philippians 4: 4 – 7

John 1: 19 – 28

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Fourth of Advent (Purple)

Romans 16: 25 – 27

Luke 1: 26 – 38

Sunday 31st

Traditional Communion - The Sunday After (White)

Galatians 4: 1 – 7

Matthew 1: 18 – 21

Holy Communion (NRSV) – First of Christmas (White)

Galatians 4: 4 – 7

Luke 2: 15 – 21



Worship in the Blyth Valley in December 2023

CW – Year B Continuous CW	3rd CW – First of - BCP – First in Advent Purple	10th CW – Second of - BCP – Second in Advent Purple	17th CW – Third of - BCP – Third in Advent Purple	24th CW – Fourth of - BCP – Fourth in Advent Purple	31st CW – First of - BCP – Sunday After Christmas
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am TEAM Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion David	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Morning Prayer Jason 6pm Evensong Dominic	10am Iona Worship Jason 4.30pm Christingle Alison A 11.30pm Midnight Mass Dominic	10am TEAM Holy Communion Gini
St Peter Grp					
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Alison A	4pm Carol Service Alison C	4pm Crib Service with Communion Gini	
Wenhaston St Peter		10.30am United Service Methodist Chapel	10am Holy Communion Alison A	8pm Holy Communion Linda	
Bramfield St Andrew			3pm Carol Service Alison A		
Blyford All Saints			3.30pm Carol Service Gini		
Thorington St Peter				6.30pm Carol Service Dominic	
St Andrew Grp					
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Win	6.30pm Carol Service David	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass Alison A	
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Gini		6.45pm Carol Service Veronica	
Spexhall St Peter		3pm Carol Service Dominic			
Linstead St Margaret			3pm Candlelight Carols Win		
St Michael Grp					
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic		
Heveningham St Margaret		4pm Carol Service Gini		11.30pm Midnight Mass Gini	
Huntingfield St Mary					
Walpole St Mary				3pm Crib Service Linda	

Additional December Services: Thursday 21st: 2pm - All Access Carols , St Mary Halesworth - Gini;
Friday 22nd: 2pm Carol Service, St Mary Huntingfield - Alison A; Friday 22nd: 7pm Carol Service St Peter Wenhaston - Linda;
Friday 22nd: 7pm - Town Carol Service, St Mary Halesworth - Dominic;
Monday 25th: 10am - Family Communion, St Mary Halesworth - Dominic.

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

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

DECEMBER 2023

3rd	Sue Groome
10th	The Revd Martin Keenan (US)
17th	Mrs Lizzie Zukiewicz
24th	Candlelight Service 3pm The Revd Pam Bayliss
25th	Revd Iain Mckillop (10am)
31st	The Revd Martin Keenan

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

DECEMBER SERVICES

Friday 1st	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 3rd	11am Gathered Worship & Communion
Tuesday 5th	10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 8th	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 10th	11am Gathered Worship 3pm Worship at Bramfield Chapel
Tuesday 12th	10am to 12noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 15th	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 17th	11am Gathered Worship
Tuesday 19th	10am to 12noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Friday 22nd	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 24th	11am Gathered Christmas Worship
Monday 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday 29th	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 31st	11am Gathered Worship

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761

jon@sermons.me.uk

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Elizabeth Aslett 07710 916737

(for families and children)

familyhurc@gmail.com



The
United
Reformed
Church

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...



Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Christmas to you all!

Or so it says on the card. Some of us might, buy, send or receive such a card: and that is it! We might wonder if we should still send one to our old neighbour or colleague again this year. Or, we may shake the small, cheap, charity card from our aunt finding ourselves disappointed that a cheque doesn't seem to have been included. At least you got a card, I hear you cry. My brother just sent an e-mail saying they were giving the money that they would have spent on our card to charity this year. Oh, and of course there are those round-robins letting us know either how successful Ann and Sarah's five barrister children are, or how many relatives have died in 2023.

Actually, we all know that there is more meaning to any celebration than the cards. May I invite you to engage with the idea of gift as the meaning of the season this year. The church's story is that God did choose to remember us and sent, or came as, an expression of the Godhead as a human creature. Admittedly, this is depicted, in an often sanitised, Europeanised, Victoriana scene, which only narrowly misses including a Christmas Tree in the picture!

If you are prepared to go beyond binning the envelope without opening it because you recognise the handwriting and you don't want to hear anything more about it, let's open the card. This small cheap notelet without even a book token may not have been what you were expecting. Though it keeps catching your eye on the hall table. It begins to dawn on us that this is not just any old baby: this - according to believers - is God. As we let that sink in, we may hear something on the radio or online that brings home to us that this is a Jew who was born in what is now called the West Bank.

If our spirituality allows us to conceive of God, what does this mean for us and how do we react? Why was this most extraordinary expression of creativity, being, community, love, and energy shoehorned in to this internally displaced, (soon to be) refugee kid born out of wedlock with uncertain parentage? At the very least, perhaps, it could confirm to us that cards are merely a token of the event they mark; however reluctantly given or received.

Just as we may open or discard the card, we may engage with or turn from the message. That message one could say is that there is something sacramental or meaningful in the giving of the card or gift. God's giving makes giving special. Indeed, Christian scripture talks about God loving a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9). So it is no surprise that one of the Gospel writers urges their listeners to 'Give and it shall be given to you' (Luke 6: 38).

Giving is arguably counter-cultural. How often do we hear

ourselves, others on the bus or in the papers saying things like: if I give there will be less for me. How do I know that the person who I am giving to is genuine. They shouldn't be coming over here taking our benefits, houses or jobs. I resent paying my rates or taxes look at the state of the roads. Don't get me started on the NHS. If they can give all that to slavery reparations, the church is not getting my money. I'm not paying that for my milk, don't the farmers get subsidies?

I accept that giving is hard work. Just look at those Magi who travelled from Persia on their horses. Or, the children, parents, partners and carers who go out of their way to make our holiday the best it can be. Though, I would still like to encourage us all to consider rejecting the selfish gene and recognise our planet, our global community and our children will live fuller lives that are happy - and not just for Christmas - if we decide to enjoy, and reward, that effort together. If you spend just ten minutes a day scrolling through posts by people you disagree with you may learn that there are many alternative questions and more alternative answers to the issue. If just ten people in each of our parishes gave just £25 a week planned giving, we could pay for our two stipended clergy and not risk losing one through cuts (contact your church's Treasurer for details). Vicars are for life not just for Christmas.

You may like to offer your skills and talents or garden to help raise funds to maintain the sacred spaces in your village; for what they stand for, for current experience of the other and for the benefit of future generations. God's example makes for a better world for all us! Thanks to all our volunteers! Please give generously!

Dominic

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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

I do hope some of you joined us for The Uganda Experience on Tuesday 21st November, and found it inspiring. It was so good to see God at work in sometimes horrendously difficult circumstances. Kenya and Zimbabwe were new challenges, whereas I normally visit Uganda every year. The next trip is now in the planning stage. Any who want to come with us (at your own expense) would be most welcome!

Another highlight of our recent church life was the Baptisms on Sunday 19th November. Like our Anglican, Methodist, and Roman Catholic colleagues, we do have infant baptisms. But a good many parents these days prefer to have a service of thanksgiving and dedication after the birth of a child, leaving Baptism as an option later in life at their son or daughter's own decision.

When we have such folk seeking Baptism for themselves, whether they may have grown up in Christian family and are now mature enough and ready, or perhaps have come to faith in adulthood, we do it as a 'Believers' Baptism' – usually by full immersion. And that is what we did, with one adult and two teenagers, all of whom have been growing in faith through our Messy Church, Sunday Young Families Worship and by being part of the group we took to Spring Harvest.

What an absolute joy to celebrate with them as they made their public affirmations of new and growing commitment to Jesus Christ, through Baptism!

As many of you are aware, Jo Moriera – who has been leading our children and young families work for many years, recently left the role to take up full time training for Ordination. (She is still with us, as an elder of the church, and contributing as a volunteer rather than employee). We are now delighted to have appointed Elizabeth Aslett to succeed Jo in taking the work forward.

And it is an exciting time with engagement in Sunday Worship, Messy Church and toddlers continue to engage new people. And it has been a delight, also, to welcome new people to Worship who have recently moved to the area.

And now we look forward to all the special events of Christmas. We have Advent Bible Studies on Monday mornings at North Lowestoft URC and also open to join via Zoom. And the Carol Service – with an open invitation to you all – Friday 15th December.

We all at Halesworth (and Bramfield) URC wish you all, from whichever church or none, a very Happy Christmas. We celebrate the Lord's birth. The start of the life, death and resurrection of God with us, Emmanuel. The most important event of human history!

Blessings

Jon



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

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SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

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

HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

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?

November is a time where we remember. We remember those who we have loved and lost and we remember those who have died and been damaged in war, those serving their country and those caught up in the conflict.

This year, as last year, it was difficult to find the right words but it felt almost more important to take time to remember the impact of war and the sacrifices people make.

Now we start looking forward to Christmas, as I turn once again to reflecting on the meaning of Jesus Christ coming into the world, I am deeply troubled by what is happening in his birthplace. How are we going to feel as we sing our favourite carols: *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; Silent night, Holy night, all is calm all is bright.* But then Jesus was not born into a calm and still world. He was born into a place of oppression and suffering, under the occupation of the Romans, his family forced to make a difficult journey late in his mother's pregnancy.

There is plenty to celebrate, community for a start, which was enjoyed by many at the recent Halesworth Christmas Lights switch-on and so many other events, held for and by our communities in the run-up to Christmas. Details of more events can be found in this issue.

The atmosphere in St Mary's church for the switch-on was lovely and spirits were well and truly lifted, despite the weather being gloomy. I love the hospitality we are managing to offer in church and there is more to come.

In addition to the Town's Carol Service on Friday 22nd December, we will be holding an All Access Carol Service for

people who find it difficult to come to a service in the evening, or who are caring for people or children and find it difficult to come to a traditional Carol Service. Halesworth volunteers will be providing afternoon tea after the Service.

November's Community Lunch will have a more festive buzz about it now the Christmas trees are up in church and we will be entertained by the Pearly Singers. On December 27th, the last Community Lunch in 2023, we will be having a hot lunch for anyone who would like to join us. We like to call it our St Stephen's Feast.

The Co-op has been very generous to us, providing lots of the supplies for these events.

This is where our hope lies, this is where God's love is served, in our communities, looking out for each other, coming together in a spirit of peace and friendship.

For all sorts of reasons Christmas can be difficult *and* joyful. There will be people who absolutely love Christmas and those who find it very difficult. I always like to work between Christmas and New Year to be available for just that reason

The arrival of Jesus Christ was the arrival of hope, lasting hope. Hope for all people, love for all people. Hope in difficult times. Hope at all times.

Praying for a blessed Christmas for us all.

Revd Gini

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

IRENE THOMAS

wishes all her friends a
Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year.

*A donation in lieu of cards will be given to
Halesworth dementia Carers' Fund*



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A Carers Storey x

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund

Helping people with memory problems and their family carers

My husband Bertie had a phenomenal memory. He was the secret weapon in any quiz team, he always won at Trivial Pursuit.

And he didn't just remember facts, he understood them too and could explain them to me.

Wherever we went he seemed to know the history of the place. When some distant country came up in the news he knew where it was and what was happening there. It made him a very interesting man. Then Bertie was diagnosed with vascular dementia.

Becoming a carer for someone with dementia is a slow burn experience. At first it's little things, he can't remember where he parked the car, or the time he forgot he had driven to work and came home on the train. And it takes forever to get a diagnosis, because he is so smart, he passes the tests. But finally he cannot pass them anymore, and he can't remember the day, or the year, or who the prime minister is. So, you have to take over everything. All the bills, all the admin. We had bailiffs round twice because I hadn't picked up bills he needed to pay. Then the physical things go. He can't remember how to mow the lawn, take out the rubbish, boil an egg, make a cup of tea, so you are now doing everything. He can't go out alone, he can't be left alone. Finally he can't remember how to dress himself, use the toilet. And he is so sad, and so frightened, and you can't make it better for him. So you are exhausted and broken-hearted every day, with no end in sight.

For me the Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund provided a lifeline. Two hours a week of free respite enabled me to take an art class. Two hours just for me. And as things got worse, they provided more hours. Respite is provided by trained dementia carers from a local agency, who not only give the carer a break, but also provide stimulation and activities for people with dementia. The charity also run events and activities for people living with dementia and their carers, and, through these activities we found a community, new friends, who knew and understood what we were going through. From these new friends I learned so much about what else is out there for people living with dementia.

I am so grateful that I have joined the charity as a trustee, and now Bertie is in hospital I can help with the charities' invaluable work. If you, or some one you know is living with dementia, please get in touch with us. You don't have to worry alone. Don't wait till things get really bad, get in touch, we want to help.



Please email
info@halesworthdementia.co.uk
 for more information



Charity No. 1170477



1st Halesworth Scout Group Charity Christmas Card Collection 2023

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

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

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

We CANNOT deliver to any other location.

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

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

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

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

HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH UK

Our Jumble Sale on Saturday 14th October was a huge success. We raised £1206.15 which was an amazing amount. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us. Thank you to all who made cakes and savouries for the refreshments on the day.

We are so very grateful to Halesworth Co-op who once again provided a magnificent hamper for our raffle, which raised a brilliant £155 and was won by a delighted Mr D Canham from Halesworth.

Nina is selling some of our Cancer Research Christmas cards again this year. The designs are particularly nice this time. As well as Nina's regular customers, if you know Nina and think you can sell a few cards for us at work, or in a group you belong to, please get in touch with her.

Gill is also continuing to sell books and jigsaws for us from her driveway, (19 Duke's Drive) - weather permitting.

Our last event of the year is nearly upon us, our very popular Christmas Fair on November 18th.

We have had a splendid year so far and the committee and volunteers would like to thank each and everyone one of you for your invaluable support and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dawn Davis - 01986 873640



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CLOSING DOWN

It is with much regret that Halesworth Stationers will be closing down on **Friday 12th January 2024.**

For customers who have loyalty cards, please use your points before the end of December 2023.

Thank you all so much for your custom and hope to get the opportunity to see you before then.

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Christmas at St. Mary's Halesworth

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Supported by Woodside Farm, Holton

Friday 8 Dec | 6pm

Rosedale Funeral Home Service of Remembrance

Wednesday 13 Dec | 12.30pm

FREE RECITAL - The Arcani Ensemble

Saturday 16 Dec | 12noon

FREE RECITAL - Aurora Consort

Wednesday 20 Dec | 12.30pm

FREE RECITAL - FESTIVE SONGS & DUETS

Thursday 21 Dec | 2pm

All Access Carol Service

Friday 22 Dec | 7pm

TRADITIONAL TOWN CAROL SERVICE

Christmas Eve | 4.30pm | 11.30pm

Children's Christingle Service | Midnight Mass

Christmas Day | 10am

Family Service

Wednesday 27 Dec | 12.30pm

St. Stephens Feast - Lunch for EVERYONE

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

HALESWORTH TOWN SWITCH-ON

Halesworth Event Management would like to thank everyone who helped with the Halesworth "Switch-on", including: Halesworth Town Council, St Mary's Church and all involved including the wonderful Father Christmas (aka Kingsley Elliff), The Angel for the use of The Stables for our meetings, Adnams Southwold for the lorry, Spar for the vouchers, Durrants for sponsorship of the band, Hetty and Pauline for the donation from the Scarecrow competition and Pauline's help with adverts and cart decorating, the Halesworth Fairies, Tim FitzHigham, Pearce and Kemp, the Fisher Theatre, Circle 67, Santa's four reindeers: Mr D Draper and brother-in-law, Mr Ollie Platt and Mr M Bailey, and everyone who took part in this year event.

But our biggest "thank you" goes to the committee members who work so hard all year round raising the funds to cover the cost of the event. However this would not be achievable without the residents and visitors, it is your support that you give to our group and your donations that make ALL of it possible, thank you.

Apologies if I have missed anyone from my list of thank yous. We are so grateful to all who made the event such a success.

Teresa Walsh

Kinda Forest Family Saturdays: Come and Re-Wild together

Next date:

Saturday 9th December, 10am -1pm

"It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" and we can BE that village together. It's a tribe for children AND adults, especially those who are a child at heart. We meet once a month in Kaliwoods in Holton, usually on the third Sat of the month.

Forest Family Wellbeing Saturdays brings people of all ages together to kindle a community fire. Grounding and connecting through exploration of nature, crafting, games, projects, fun, collective camp fire cooking, stories and the beautiful wildlife of Kaliwoods. All seasons, and most weather apart from very strong winds.

Contact info@kindaeducation.org or 07776117671 for more information or if the cost stops you from attending. All children under 16 need to attend with an accompanying adult. And book early to avoid disappointment (limited numbers only). <https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/740811716787?aff=odtdcreator>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/308861295099987/?mibextid=K35XfP>

Dates for first part of 2024: 20th Jan, 17th Feb, 16th March, 20th April (All Saturdays: 10am-1pm).

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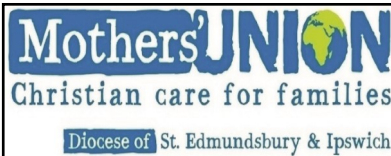
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Page includes excerpts from
Transformation Now! -
November 2023 No 46.
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No 249726

St Luke's Day - A service of Healing and Wholeness on the feast of St Luke (October 18th) for the Mothers' Union was held in our Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds. The service was led by our Chaplain, the Revd Catherine Forsdike (and still nursing a shoulder injury, she appreciated a little help from her husband, Alan). The address, given by the Canon Pastor, the Revd Matthew Vernon, was both interesting and inspiring, and our former Treasurer, Keith Foulds, enthusiastically played the organ accompanying meaningful and well-chosen hymns. Around 30 MU members participated in receiving both the Anointing and Holy Communion. The service was a beautiful and healing oasis in a troubled world. Our sincere thanks to all who made it possible.



Recent Cathedral Branch Activities - In October at the Prison Sunday Service, members made scones, cakes and biscuits for the discussion afterwards in the Edmund Room. For our monthly meeting our Branch filled handmade bags with toiletries collected by our members and Cathedral congregation. Forty-two bags were filled ready to be given to the Bury Refuge Centre.

Well Done MU Members - We know that many MU members participate in activities in our parishes. They deliver Open the Book in local schools, help with foodbanks, assist at 'Meet up Mondays' and support toddler groups. A new Toddler Group is being planned in Yoxmere Benefice and we pray that it will thrive. Don't forget to make a note of MU members' involvement in these activities through the year, just as you record when craft items like drain bags and knitted hats are produced. The records show the impact Mothers' Union is having in our communities.

iChameleon - North Suffolk Area ran the Pop-Up Shop in Halesworth again in October. Thank you for all the items that were donated and to all the people who supported the shop. It is always a good opportunity to promote MU and to be visible in the High Street. We talked about MU with our customers and handed out leaflets. It is always a busy time preparing to open, running the shop and clearing up but it is very much a team effort. Unsold items were given to local charity shops and books went to Sibton Church for their next book sale. This year, our takings, over the week, exceeded £2,000 which was a very pleasing result.

A message from Clare Thomas - We are aware that there have been some problems with members not receiving

Connected in other dioceses, and we would be grateful if you could let us know if you have not received your recent copy. Some members have opted out of 'Resources and Campaigns', and therefore would not receive *Connected*, but all other members should have received their copy earlier in October. Clare Thomas (01473 832808) can help with this.

Prayer

In our troubled world we pray for areas where there is animosity, grievance, hatred or war. We pray that in these areas new seeds may grow to encourage a spirit of good will, a wish for conciliation and reconciliation, a quest for kindness and mediation. Amen.

Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse

Mothers' Union have recently launched **Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse** challenge throughout Britain and Ireland. Our aim is to make sure activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days per year, not just during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November and December.

It is hoped all members in Branches and Fellowship Groups will get involved and **RISE UP** to the challenge. This is by committing to praying for victims, survivors, perpetrators and those who work in the field of domestic abuse, three times a year. Also by contacting local support organisations to see how we can help support them, maybe by providing 'moving in' or 'moving on' packages.

A 'moving in' package contain essentials a woman may need when she first arrives at a refuge, such as soap, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste and sanitary towels. A 'moving on' package contains the smaller items a family will need when they move out of the refuge and hopefully set up on their own. It includes items like cutlery, tea towels, washing up liquid, rubber gloves and clothes pegs. MU members in branches across the Diocese provide items for the two refuges in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. The 'moving in' package can be contained in a small washbag and the 'moving on' package can be contained in a washing up bowl.

It is hoped MU members can work together and with others to be part of the change. Domestic Abuse can happen to anyone from any walk of life. It isn't just unemployed, single parents who suffer from abuse. It is often the educated, the affluent, both men and women.

Respond - to a disclosure of abuse with compassion and calm. **Inform** - the person where they can get help from. **Support** - them appropriately and in a safe manner. **Empower** - them to grow and heal. **Unite** - with other members of Mothers' Union. **Pray** - for an end to domestic abuse in the UK and throughout the world.

Janet Walkey

Waveney & Blyth Deanery MU Leader. 01986 872594
janetwalkey@hotmail.com



Cathedral Branch Members



Suffolk Carols

This is a joint initiative from Suffolk Sounds Radio and Lightwave to promote carol singing in all sorts of venues, strengthen community and raise funds for local charities. It's really easy to take part: any community carol-singing event

between December 4th and 24th can join in.

Please visit 'Suffolk Carols' at: www.lightwave.community/suffolk-carols and register your event and the charity you are raising funds for and this will be advertised on Suffolk Sounds radio programmes and via the Suffolk Carols Facebook presence.

Follow the Star:

Join the Song:

Inviting choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing a new version of The First Nowell.

Find out more at:

www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/follow-star-join-song-resources-churches



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

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

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



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Halesworth Lions Club

Halesworth Lions are delighted to announce that Father Christmas will be coming to town in December.



Thanks to the great support from the Halesworth Co-op, to whom we are most grateful, he will be appearing on

Saturdays 2nd, 9th and 23rd December.

Rather than being on his sleigh outside, he will be inside the store, and is greatly looking forward to seeing you all again.

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN NOVEMBER

WEDDING

Chloe Hayes and Rhys Hunniball at Blyford

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Julie Ann Hurren at Wissett

Nellie Phoebe Horne at Cookley

Jean Kathleen Coby at Halesworth

Edward George Hornagold at Wissett



WELCOME WEDNESDAYS: LUNCH TIME!

Merry Christmas!

12.30 - 2.30pm

November 29th Lunch with Entertainment by the Pearly Singers



12.30 - 2pm

December 27th Hot lunch

“St Stephen's Feast”

St Mary's Church, Halesworth
Please call Rev Gini to book: 01986 875541

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

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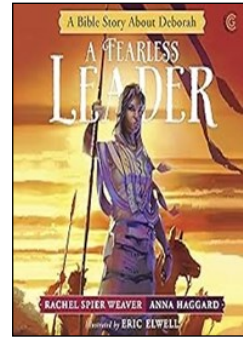
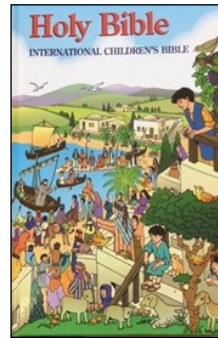
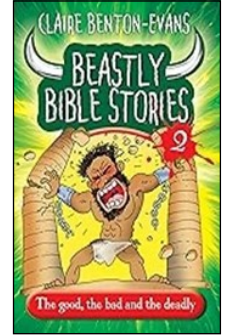
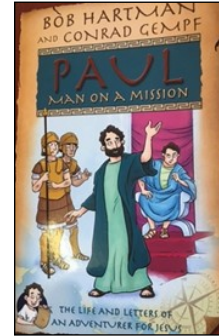
I don't know about you, but I'm finding it hard to get into the Christmas mood this year, the sparkle and magic of yesteryear is taking a while to work in 2023, or is it I'm just getting older? The Government is running around like a headless chicken planning some very uncharitable policies and legislation, the sound of war over many places in the world is all but deafening us all, the misery and tragedy, the hopelessness in the land where Christ was born is heart-breaking, and yet..., and yet...The phrase 'in this world of sin' came to mind and then I remembered where it came from: 'O little town of Bethlehem". We love singing Christmas carols, but how often do we meditate on the words? I hope the middle verses of this favourite carol restore hope and perspective, peace and joy, as they do for me.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.

Coming down to earth, if any of you are still looking for a present for the child in your life, you might find just the thing in **Sign of the Fish**.

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish



STOP PRESS: From January 2024 **Sign of the Fish** will no longer be supplying bible reading notes. The demand for these has been declining year on year, with a rapid loss during Covid; clients have discovered they can subscribe personally, save money if they commit to a direct debit subscription, and have them delivered automatically by post to their home, or electronically to their iPad, what's not to like?!

Instructions how to proceed (plenty of choices) are in the back of your current bible reading notes.



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www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

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



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

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The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



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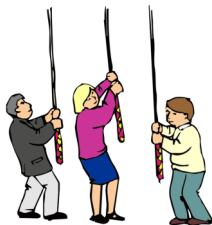
Janet Walkey
01986 872594.
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CHURCHWARDENS



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Chediston	Jo Wareham	07711 066727
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby	01986 873336
Heveningham	Jeanette Griffin	01986 798280
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevett	01986 875913 01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Keith Noakes	07939 527340
Thorington	Mike Gower	01502 478078
Walpole	Ken Allen Lee Hill	01986 784240 07713 450078
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	01986 873173



From the Ringing Chamber



A nice little story this month. Mike and Carol's daughter, Clare Wilkes, was giving a talk at Halesworth Bookshop about her biography of a legendary chemist from Nottingham, where she (Clare) was at university. We took the opportunity to ring a quarter peal at Wissett the following afternoon, with Clare's son Brinley ringing his first quarter alongside his mother and grandfather, three generations together, quite an occasion.

Meanwhile, back in town, we continued the run of 1st Sunday evening quarter peals with one of Little Bob Major, so called because the treble (lightest bell) only moves up as far as 4ths place, despite eight bells being involved. As usual we had to bring in reinforcements, this time from Beccles, Blaxhall and Loddon.

The annual meeting of the NE District of the Suffolk Guild of ringers took place at Reydon on November 11th. As usual Halesworth ringers were well-represented in terms of officer posts, with me clinging on to the Ringing Master's job (no-one else wanted it) and Erika continuing in her role as Assistant Secretary. Joanna gamely volunteered to represent

the District on the Guild's Management Committee while Keith continues on the District Committee.



November service ringing has taken place at Halesworth, Bramfield, Wissett and Huntingfield.

We'll no doubt be all over the place as we get into the Carol Service season!

PJG

The quarter peal band at Wissett.

Left to right:

Mike, Brinley, Erika, Clare, Philip, Jon.

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

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Methodist Minister

8 Corton Road, Lowestoft NR32 4PL. Tel: 01502 560178

Email: martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

Jon Sermon

URC Minister, Halesworth & Bramfield URC,

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Roman Catholic Priest

St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church,

Halesworth IP19 8SY. Tel: 01502 723207

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

Tel 01986 875941.

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

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

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Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by the

Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

Deadline date for ALL copy for the

JANUARY 2024 edition issue is:

WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER

Publishing date: Thursday 4th January 2024

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News from Town & Villages



Blyford

Correspondent

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acackett@me.com

A Merry Christmas from all at Blyford Church. Our Harvest Festival went very well and our next service is the annual Carol Service on December 17th, at 3.30pm. This service is always well attended and is a lovely introduction to Christmas.

Holton and Blyford Village Hall are holding their annual Pop up Pub and Carols on December 16th from 7pm. All welcome and free entry. There will be free burgers and the bar will be open.

A wedding ceremony was held in the church in November, congratulations to Chloe and Rhys and may you have many happy years together.

On a sad note, I attended the funeral service for Daphne Francis on November 10th which was well attended. Geoff and I took Josie and Phyllis to the service. Both Daphne and Josie taught me all I know about being a churchwarden.

Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson
07986 217868

joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

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.



Our next church service in December is a Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 3pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bramfield Churchyard Working Party, Saturday 9th December

We will be holding a working party morning at 10am-12noon to tidy up the graveyard and tidy up inside the church, too. So we will be very grateful for any volunteers. We have some tools, but if you can bring your own as well that would be useful. Drinks and biscuits will be provided. Thank you.

Jinnie Barham

Bramfield Village Hall and Bridge Meadow/Village Green update

The sale of the field to the Village Hall continues to progress. The Trustees are inviting younger villagers to join an events group. We would like to know what events for the field and hall they would like and how we can reach those who have children, to include them in making the use of the field and village hall truly inclusive.

For further information, please contact Jane Edwards, text or telephone 07908 688380 or email: h.jane.edwards@outlook.com

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair at the Village Hall is being held on Saturday 2nd December between 10am and 2pm.

Pat Potts and family will be serving their famous turkey rolls, mulled wine and refreshments. There will also be a raffle and various stalls including cards, toys and tombola.

All donations of prizes for raffle and tombola very welcome.

All proceeds will go towards the Village Hall and Bridge Meadow Project. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Edwards

A Christmas Carol

Circle 67 is proud to present their adaptation of that festive favourite *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Ever since it was first published in 1843, Ebenezer Scrooge and his ghostly visitors have entranced and captivated reader and audience alike. So if you are feeling a little low in Christmas spirit, or simply need a top up, join us in celebrating one of literature's greatest redemption stories. Suitable for all the family.

Opening night will be held at

Bramfield Village Hall on December 19th. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets £8. Refreshments available.

Steve Chadwick

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

What a contrast with the weather - after a few balmy autumnal days in late October, we were then treated to floods and rain every day. Although fairly lucky in this region, except of course Framlingham and Debenham, the rest of the country suffered badly. Our hearts go out to all the flood victims.

Remembrance Sunday

This was celebrated on November 12th, we all gathered at the War Memorial in the churchyard. John Parson read out the names of those fallen from Chediston in the two World wars. Westley Gregory laid the poppy wreath at the foot of the memorial and others laid small crosses in remembrance. Fortunately, the rain held off for the outside ceremony and we were able to remember all those who gave their lives that we may live in freedom, without putting up our umbrellas.

We then proceeded into the church which was comfortably full and decorated with poppies. There were several readings from members of the congregation and well-known hymns were sung concluding with the National Anthem.

Chediston & Linstead WI

We met on Tuesday 14th November. After the AGM, we were treated to one and a half hours of handbell ringing from the Halesworth Handbell Ringers. Several traditional tunes were played including Christmas carols which were instantly recognised. Some of our members got up to try their hand which proved very popular. The afternoon ended with tea for everyone. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th December where we will meet at the Huntingfield Arms at 12pm for a Christmas lunch. Everyone is required to bring a small gift.

**Christmas Fair –
Saturday 2nd December**

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

Christmas Services

We look forward to a happy and peaceful Christmas – service times are available on page 3 and the back page of this issue of *BVTimes*, including details of our much-loved Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6.45pm.

Cookley

**St Michael & All Angels Church,
Cookley**

has joined the “Give a Little” online donation service.

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



Halesworth

**Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336**

halesworthparish@gmail.com

All too soon we have arrived once again at the season of Advent and Christmas, such a special time to be with family and friends both at home and within our worshipping family. Remembering especially this season your precious children of the Holy Land, Israelis and Palestinians spending Christmas in a war zone, we pray for urgent peace and a ceasefire.

St Mary’s has a busy December, so brace yourselves... we have the Rosedale Christmas Service of Remembrance on Friday 8th; not one, not two, but THREE recitals on 13th, 16th and 20th; FOSM Christmas Tree Festival; All Access Carol Service; Town Carol Service; Christingle Service; Midnight Mass; St Stephen’s Day Lunch and not forgetting weekly worship during Advent.

FULL DETAILS can be found across *BVTimes*, Facebook, YouTube and on posters in church.

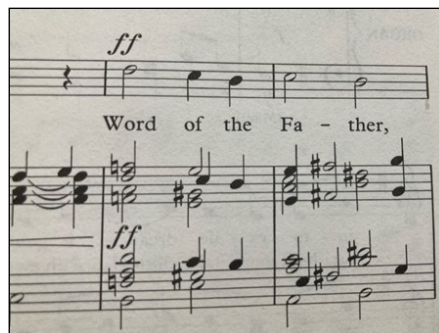
ALL services in December will be broadcast LIVE at:

[www.youtube.com/
@halesworthparish](http://www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish)

so if you can’t join us in person you can join us LIVE from the comfort of your sofa!



For myself as a musician, December means ADVENT - *O come, O come, Emmanuel, Lo, he comes with clouds descending* and carols, lots and lots of carols! I recently read an article in the Royal School of Church Music quarterly magazine entitled “Music to the Soul” – the article spoke about how we communicate various elements of our Christian faith through music: for example, by narrating Bible passages, reciting the liturgy, or offering prayer and praise. It is for us to allow the music to convey its intended message as clearly and meaningfully as possible. We have a wonderful opportunity to spread God’s word and sing his praises in our community through words and music. Indeed, doing so is an important responsibility. Given that our Lord deserves the best we can offer! So, enjoy your carol singing this season, sing with passion, pleasure and praise as the build-up to that mighty last verse of *O come all ye faithful* – YEA LORD WE GREET THEE, BORN ON CHRISTMAS MORNING. (My favourite chord sequence all year!).



You may have noticed that we have a new addition to the musical family in St Mary’s - a 6ft 3in Bluthner Grand

Piano in Rosewood. Purchased by a very generous donor (who wishes to remain anonymous). This much newer piano, from a home in Aldeburgh, will add a far superior quality to the Luncetime Recitals in December, into 2024 and for many years to come. Enjoy everyone!

Finally from me this month, a prayer for all at Christmas – “Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

HALESWORTH WI

As our speaker did the Can Can in the aisle at our last meeting, members sat enthralled, but none showed any inclination to get up and join in! Jane Hoggar kept us entertained with her life story in dance.

Always wanting to be a ballerina but realising at 16 she was six feet tall and could look down on most male ballet dancers, she changed direction, becoming a chorus girl, a career which took her travelling all over the world, dancing on cruise ships in all weathers and on land to Egypt, Japan and many foreign countries until making her way to Paris to join the Folies Bergère as a high-kicking Bluebell Girl.

Jane demonstrated that at 57 she can still do the high kicks, as she sang and danced for us.

Best wishes to all our members for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**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.



ST MARY'S HALESWORTH 50/50 CLUB

The result of the November draw is: 1st prize: W Pagan; 2nd prize: Y Eady; 3rd prize: D Hale.

Heveningham

Correspondent Christine Baker
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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.



This month has seen some awful weather in Suffolk and, like many others, the village has been flooded. Our church, thankfully, was lucky as in that we had a leak in the roof temporarily, but no other problems.



Our Remembrance Sunday service was very successful with 28 parishioners attending. We had an "all ladies" wreath laying this year and would like to thank Lois Hunt, Councillor Julia Ewart, Georgina Lee and Karen Howard for their participation in this.



We now can look forward to our Christmas Carol Service, which will take place on Sunday 10th December at 4pm. We are also holding a Midnight Mass at St Margaret's on Christmas Eve starting at 11.30pm. All are very welcome.

Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

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As I write this column, it's Monday 13th November and I am trying to gather my thoughts in order to report on a busy weekend! Saturday 11th was Armistice Day, so an important day for the country as a whole, but also the day of our Christmas Fair, and Sunday was Remembrance Sunday, so again an important day.

As most of you will know we start our Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard where we read the names of those from the village who died in the first and second World Wars, lay wreaths and observe a two minute's silence. This year we were joined by some members of the Royal British Legion and also by American servicemen with some family members, plus a good number of people from the village.

Back in church, the Revd Dominic Doble led us in our worship, preaching on the readings, which seemed to me to be most odd, but which he linked together and made relevant to our mixed feelings about war and victory. The weather stayed reasonably dry for the walk up to the Airfield War Memorials, where the names of all those who had died while serving here

were read out. A short ceremony was held when wreaths were laid and again a two minute's silence was held. We all then waited for the arrival of a light aircraft which dropped poppies, as a last Act of Remembrance. We were invited to the museum to enjoy soup, cakes, tea and coffee, which were as enjoyable as always.

The Christmas Fair was a great success raising £1282.40 for church funds! Well done everyone! It was a very good morning with a steady stream of people coming into the hall.

The stalls all looked splendid and were appreciated by the visitors, purchases were made, refreshments enjoyed and a happy atmosphere was very evident. At 11am we stopped what we were doing for the two minute's silence, everyone was silent, time seemed to stand still.



DON'T FORGET Dot's Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of the Pear Tree Fund on Thursday 14th December, 10am in Holton & Blyford Village Hall. Everyone welcome!

Christmas is approaching rapidly, we are all making plans and wondering what to eat, what to give as presents, deciding what we want, if anything! It is the time for lists! We have a record of all the presents that we have given people going back years, we started doing it so that we didn't give someone the same present, year after year. It works fairly well, most of the time.

Christmas Services:- We are having a Carol Service on December 17th at 4pm, and a Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm followed by a short Communion Service. Please see the service details on page 3 and back cover of this issue of *BVTimes*.

Churchyard: our thanks go to the Community PayBack staff and "volunteers" for their hard work in keeping our churchyard neat and tidy. They have been for four weeks now, and will come again to cut the hedge along the footpath to a manageable height.

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.



Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
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On Remembrance Sunday, the sun shone through the trees as people gathered round the Village War Memorial for the annual service of remembrance. As always, on this occasion, it was well supported and even more so this year with so much unrest and war taking place around the world.

The short and moving service was presided over by Win Sutton with Rose Thompson, a teenager of the village, reading out the names of the fallen. Rose has carried out this role since the age of eight and we are always so

grateful to her for playing her part in the service.

Another regular visitor to us on this day is Miss Minter who drives up from Tendring in Essex. Her grandfather, Arthur Minter is commemorated on the WWI memorial. He was lost at sea when her mother was six months old. Going through some family papers, she came across the service book for when our War Memorial was dedicated by The Lord Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich in October 1922. Miss Minter has kindly donated the book to Huntingfield church, our sincere thanks to her.

Dominic suggested at a recent PCC meeting, that perhaps we should try selling local honey at the church. Always up for a challenge we sourced some local honey and put it up for sale. I am pleased to report that it is proving popular and people are buying it from the church. Our new coloured cards and notelets are attracting attention and boosting our general maintenance fund.

Staying with maintenance, we are hoping that the grass has finally had its last cut and the mower and trimmer can be put away for the winter! With the leaves falling, clearing out the gutters is on the list. A new ladder has been bought for the bell tower, as the last one was threatening to collapse for the brave who dared climb up it. So, now the question arises 'How do you get a rigid, very long ladder up a narrow spiral staircase?' Answers on a postcard please!

Our village Carol Service will this year take place on Friday 22nd December at 2pm. Everyone is welcome and a warm welcome awaits, Christmas

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



chocolate for all the children. The church is open daily from 10.30am - 3.30pm.

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

STARTING THE FESTIVE SEASON ON A sombre note doesn't sit well, but it can't be helped. To be blunt, there have been a number of burglaries in Linstead. I won't enumerate them, but suffice it to say that they have mostly involved outbuildings and garden or farm machinery. Whoever is responsible is well-organised and is quite brazen. It is up to us to be vigilant and report ANY suspicious activity, any suspicious visitors or vehicle movements. We assume that they carry out a reconnoitre beforehand. If you encounter a stranger, bear that in mind. Being on our guard is the best thing we can do.

NOW ON TO MORE ENJOYABLE subjects.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The annual service of
carols & readings

will be held on

**Sunday 17th December
at 3pm.**

This is an event for the whole
family so please do join us.

There will be seasonal
refreshments afterwards

**And don't forget to bring a
candle and candle-holder!**

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD WI MET IN November for their AGM. They were then entertained to a concert by the Halesworth Handbell Ringers. It was an impressive performance, all the more so because the Halesworth Ringers very sportingly let some of our members have a go and coached them in *Bobby Shafto*. The result was a very sporting effort but the consensus was that they shouldn't give up their day jobs. The WI meets next on Tuesday 5th December

at the Huntingfield Arms, for their Christmas lunch. We all hope that they have a super time.

THE MONSOON SEASON IS WITH US and the beck is running high, but not as high as it was a few weeks ago. The Parish Council was asked by our District Councillor for the locations and details of the floods and the parish obliged. These are the days of phone cameras so the village WhatsApp was well illustrated. These are three of our own offerings.



This time, the beck didn't quite get to the top of the parapet of our bridge. (about 30 years ago it did, the surplus water then simply flowed round the side).



Our house doesn't normally have a moat, but it is at times like these that one is grateful that the old boys knew where to site the houses.



Further upstream, beyond Town House, the road was impassable and hosted a seven ton truck for several hours until a friendly farmer pulled it out and got it running. As I said, the village 'WhatsApp' featured many such pictures, so the Parish Council should have a wealth of information to supply.

As far as we are aware, no houses in the village sustained any direct flood damage, but it was a close run thing. OUR SERVICE IN DECEMBER IS THE Service of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight. Details are on the separate panel. We look forward to seeing you all there.

ON ANOTHER SAD NOTE, WE SAY farewell to Robin and Sara Ward who have moved from Valley Farm to pastures new, to be closer to their family. May we thank them for all their hard work over the years at village functions. They will be missed.

MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF wishing all our readers a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes
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 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.



Remembrance Day

It was good to see so many at the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Sunday 12th November and the subsequent time to reflect on the need for peace and justice in the world. Particular thanks to John's moving singing of *Where have all the flowers gone?*. The chorus 'When will they ever learn' helped us to recall the need to be conscious of the part we all have to pay for peace and justice.

Boards at Christmas

We are really hoping that Santa will bring a special gift for Christmas. You will not only see the crib and the tree, but also the restored Commandment/Credal boards should be shining in all their glory.

Below is a photograph of the boards

during restoration. The bright patch in the middle shows what the boards will look like when varnished.



Our thanks to a generous grant from the Suffolk Churches Historic Trust. The restorers say that the calligrapher who painted these had a 'fine hand'!

Carol Service

This year the Carol Service is on Sunday 10th December at 3pm.

Do feel free to join in this very special occasion which gets us all into the Christmas Spirit. Everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments afterwards, with the kind help of the village people.

O Come All Ye Faithful

This year the Christmas festivities are hosted by Wissett. We share the privilege on alternate years. Do join us for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at St Andrew's Wissett at 11.30pm.

Wishing all in Spexhall village and their families and friends a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thorington

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We are delighted the Team Service on October 29th was a success and there was a congregation of 35 at the church and choir, too, so thank you to all, and Dominic for taking the service. It is a quiet time of year here and all services will be published in the magazine and please do note Christmas Eve Carol Service on December 24th at 6.30pm, with mince pies and mulled wine served from 6.15pm. So come early, grab a seat and a drink! We are all looking forward to

Carol Service. Please bring a torch to provide extra lighting to the church. We will have more updates in future issues of *BVTimes*, but keep warm and cosy and pray for all those living through war zones.

Walpole

Correspondents

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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.



Our Remembrance Day Service was well attended and we would like to thank Rob Chase - Chair of Walpole and Cookley Parish Council, for reading out the names of the fallen and Lieutenant Colonel Brian Fowle for reading the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph. Although we were without our resident organist, Paul Montgomery, we must thank his son George, aged 13 years, who rose to the occasion and played the National Anthem for us - we are all very proud of him.

On Saturday 9th December, we will be holding a wreath making workshop - numbers are limited so please book your place early if you are interested (Tel Jane 07540 777845). Please see the advertisement on page 28 of this issue for more details.

As we near the end of the year and reflect on the last 12 months we would like to thank Dominic, Gini, Carolyn and all the Team for their continued support. Our thanks also extend to those of you in the Benefice who have supported our fundraising events; this has been very much appreciated. We are hoping to begin some of the external renovation works next year. Our final service of the year will be our

Crib Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve and all are welcome to join us. More details on the poster on page 28 of this issue.

Wenhaston

Correspondent

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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.



Our Quiz Night fell foul of Storm Babet, there was so much flooding and awful weather, so we decided to postpone it until the Spring, and Phil and Denise have kindly said they will hold it over until then, so watch this space for details.

Our Act of Remembrance was taken by Alison and it was good to see so many people at the Village Hall when we stood for two minute's silence in memory of the glorious dead. The service that followed in church was also well attended and the church looked very fitting, decorated with poppies. £230 was sent to the RBL.

Every year Wenhaston Church donates 5% of its unrestricted income to charity and this year we have sent donations to St Elizabeth Hospice, The Prison Fellowship and Mission Aviation Fellowship, all of which were very grateful.

The church is holding a tombola at the Christmas Bazaar and I will be grateful for any prizes for this. Could I have any prizes by early December, please.

Our Carol Service this year is on Friday 22nd December at 7pm. We warmly invite you all to join us to sing carols and enjoy mince pies and drinks. The collection will be for the Children's Society.

December Services

3rd	10am Team Service, St Mary's Halesworth
10th	10.30am United Service Methodist
17th	10am Holy Communion, St Peter's
22nd	Carol Service, St Peter's
24th	8pm Holy Communion, St Peter's
31st	10am Team Service, St Mary's Halesworth

WENHASTON M U

We were all very sadden to learn of the death of our member Daphne Francis and we send our sincere sympathy to Stephanie, David and all of Daphne's family at this sad time. Daphne had been an inspiration to those of us who visited her during her long and difficult illness and it was a privilege to have know her. Many of her friends in the village were able to be at the service at the Waveney Crematorium and afterwards at Halesworth Golf Club where many happy memories were shared.

At our November meeting, we were very pleased to welcome Seva from the Pear Tree Centre in Halesworth. Seva gave us a very informative talk on the many aspects of the facilities which are now available at the Centre.

I think that we were surprised at how much help there is available, but perhaps felt that the surrounding villages are not always aware of the work of the Pear Tree Centre and how welcoming and available the Centre is. Seva said that they were aware of this and hope to distribute more information into villages.

In December, we will be having our usual Christmas gathering with carols, a raffle and tea at Spindleberry on Wednesday 13th December. I look forward to seeing everyone. *Please note that this meeting is at 3pm not 2.30pm.*

We wish all our readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. **Margaret G**

WENHASTON WALKING GROUP

As is traditional, there will be just the one walk in December on Tuesday 5th. Gail will lead a walk starting out at 10am from the car park in Walberswick just beyond The Bell pub. A festive lunch will follow at The Bell and a menu

will have been circulated already. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, email: ipbigwood@btinternet.com We look forward to a celebration. Merry Christmas!

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

We were delighted to welcome a new demonstrator, Amie Galione to our meeting on November 7th.

Amie's demonstration was entitled "Sustainable Christmas" with an emphasis on using natural products and recycling and reusing containers whenever possible. The evening provided the members with lots of Christmas gifting ideas and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



Amie demonstrating environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives to traditional methods.

We were all delighted to see Jean back with us again and in good spirits after being a bit poorly.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5th December in Wenhaston Village Hall 7.30pm, and this will be our Christmas Party. There will be a demonstration by Jenni Baker themed "The Scent of Christmas" and we all look forward to seeing her again this year.

For the party after the demonstration we ask everyone to please provide a plate of sharing food, sweet or savoury and a Secret Santa gift of a value up to £5.

The Flower Club will provide the drinks. There isn't an entrance fee on party night. We hope to see everyone there for an enjoyable entertaining evening and to begin the Christmas Festivities.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery on 01502 478401.

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

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As I write, the trees around the churchyard are in glorious autumn colours and the WWI figures, made so well by Julian Harris, with the name and details of each person, are still in place.

The brick floor in the church is drying out and I am told that the drainage repairs to the road by Valley Farm have been a success. So far, so autumnal, but we must think ahead to what is coming.

December is a busy time of getting ready, excitement, anticipation, awaiting arrival... Advent!

I am hosting a family Christmas on my own for the first time, so I feel this very much, with visitors coming from abroad.

As I was thinking about what to write for this piece the poem by Wendy Cope, "The Christmas Life", came into my head. Ah ha! Good I thought.

Then I remembered copyright rules... do search the poem out? It is so much what I wanted to say about what we bring and why, in getting ready for Christmas.

Righty ho! Enough of the teacher in me creeping in.

December Services in Wissett

Sunday 10th Morning Prayer 10am.
Then we will be busy bringing in, "red, green and gold... things that shine" ready for Sunday 17th December, the Carol Service at 6.30pm.

On Christmas Eve at 4pm, especially with children in mind, The Crib Service and this year Wissett has Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on December 24th.

Looking further ahead to January 6th 2024, we have our Epiphany Service at 6pm.

Cleaning Rota for December

3rd	Veronica Catchpole and Kathleen Witherby
10th	Gill Bailey and Linda Clarke
17th	Janice Bathgate and Cara Wetmore
24th	Nick Evans

There may be memories of Christmas past and I am sure we will be aware of friends and our neighbours for whom this will be the first Christmas without the company of a loved one.

We offer them our love and support.

"Bring in a birth of hope and love and light".

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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.



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

- A little bit of history: 4. The Clerical Connection: Part 1

Mentioned in wills in and around 1500 as the church of 'The Assumption of Our Lady of Hallisworth', St Mary's "has constantly evolved and changed during its long history, as Halesworth folk of different periods and Christian traditions have altered, adjusted and re-ordered it, according to their particular liturgical needs, and as each generation has tried to enable it to best serve the people of Halesworth as their parish church."¹, with a procession of clerics.

The first record of clergy connected with St Mary's is that in 1066 of Lord of the Manor, Aelfric, and Ulf, the priest, mentioned as holding the Rectory Manor in the Domesday Book, the manuscript record of the 'Great Survey' of much of England and parts of Wales, completed in 1086 on the orders of William the Conqueror. Halesworth, in the hundred of Blything in the county of Suffolk, was recorded as a settlement with a population of 34 households. Ulf, or Ulv, is a masculine name, common in Scandinavia and Germany, deriving from the Old Norse word for 'wolf'; the oldest written record of the name in Sweden is from a C11 runestone. Was Ulf, the priest, a descendent of one of the original Viking invaders? In 1066, he held 40 acres of land as a manor, of which 40 acres was meadow, with four freemen and two bordars (or smallholders); bordars were people ranking below villeins and above serfs in the social hierarchy of a manor, holding just enough land to feed a family (about five acres), and required to provide labour on the demesne on specified days of the week. Ulf is recorded as having one plough, woodland for six swine, fourteen sheep, two goats, all of his holding being worth 5 shillings (25p). It has been speculated that one of the head stops on the priest's door may depict the Priest Ulf.

Moving forward we come to Walter Annable, who, after 12 years at Spexhall, became rector of Halesworth in 1463 until 1465 when he died. Annable was closely connected with the Allington family, Lords and patrons of Halesworth at the time. In 1438 Annable witnessed the will of Thomas Clement, whose carved Latin inscription above the vestry door from the chancel reads: "Pray for the souls of Thomas Clement and Margaret his consort who caused this vestry to be made."

James Assheton (b.1573) took over the living from his second cousin, Abdias (1563-1633), and was rector from 1616 until probably 1644. His family were from near Manchester, and he studied at St John's College, Cambridge. A curiosity is the painted oak panel monument on the south chancel wall, which commemorates Richard Assheton (1622-1641) from York, great-nephew to James, who it would seem was visiting James when he met his untimely death at the age of 19.

The C16-17 iconoclasm set in train by Henry VIII led to 5 April

1643 when William Dowsing, Parliamentary Commissioner, ordered the "Parson of the town" to remove crucifixes, more than 200 pictures said to be superstitious, including stained glass and brasses, and for the steps of the altar to be levelled off. John Browne (d.1581) was Lord of the Manor of Ubbeston and patron of the living there. In 1825 four brasses were found in the River Waveney; were they thrown there to avoid the activity of William Dowsing? The brasses were dragged out of the river at a spot called the 'roaring arch' at the second bridge on the Earsham Dam. They were placed in St Mary's by the Revd Samuel Blois Turner, perpetual curate of Linstead Parva, who noticed that they fitted the matrices in a stone slab uncovered during the restoration of the church, and had the slab and brasses mounted on the wall. He showed the restored brasses to members of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology meeting at Halesworth on 11 August 1870. They are described as palimpsest (re-used) in C16 Flemish brass. They show John's wife with the figure cut off at the waist, and figures of six sons and 10 daughters. A section is hinged, which, when opened, reveals the original brass, engraved in Flanders in the 1350s. The inscription reads: *Here lieth John Browne of Hallesworth who lived a quiet life and died the 23 of August in the year 1581, of the age of LXXX years and XXV weeks. He had by his onely wife with whom he lived 54 years and 5 months, 6 sons and 10 daughters. He had also 65 grandchildren of whom 54 were living at the daye of his decease.*

More next time.

Jenny Janes

1. *A Century of Change in a Suffolk Church: Re-Ordering at St Mary's Church, Halesworth, in the 19th Century* by Roy Tricker.



*The Lord almighty grant us a
quiet night and a perfect end*

Join us for Compline live on Facebook
@ 9.30pm.

Search:- blythvalleychurchessuffolk

Mondays - Alison

Wednesday and Fridays - Linda

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www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

Blyth Valley Team Ministry

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

www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk
or you can simply scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



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



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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- Pat's famous turkey rolls
- Christmas stalls
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In aid of the Village Hall and Bridge Meadow Project

Christmas

CAROL SERVICE

17TH DECEMBER 6:30

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
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FOLLOWED BY MINCE PIES
AND MULLED WINE

@Halesworthfestivelights



Christmas Tree

FESTIVAL

Visit the Christmas Tree Festival
in St Mary's Church Halesworth
ON NOW!
CONTINUES THROUGHOUT
DECEMBER

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL
hosts the annual



SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Doors open at 7pm. Bar

COME AND JOIN US, EVERYONE IS INVITED

Get into the Christmas spirit as we spend an evening round the piano singing classic carols, whilst enjoying nibbles and a drink.

Free Entry... Free burgers



**Halesworth Town
Carol Service**

**Friday 22nd
December**

**St Mary's
Church
7.00pm**



**Sing the Carols • Hear the Story
All are Welcome**

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA



LINSTEAD CHRISTMAS MARKET

**SAT 25TH NOV
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HALESWORTH**

CHRISTMAS GIFTS | CAKES
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St Mary's Walpole Family Crib / Carol Service

**Christmas Eve
3:00pm**

Followed by
Mulled Wine / Hot Chocolate / Mince Pies



St Mary's Church Walpole



Wreath Making

**Saturday 9th December
10:30am start**

£20 - includes all materials to make your own wreath but please do bring any additional decorations if you wish to.

**TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE CONTACT:
JANE - 07540 777845**

Please note - there are limited places available



Mulled wine / hot chocolate and mince pies included
All proceeds in aid of the St Mary's Restoration Fund



DOT'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 14th December, 10am

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

In aid of the Pear Tree Fund



Everyone welcome!

THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

Tuesday 12th December: Pevsner in Suffolk
Lecturer: Susie Harries

Tuesday 9th January: Blenheim Palace - The Agony And The Ecstasy. *Lecturer: Anthony Russell*

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



Remembering those we love at Christmas

A Service of Remembrance at ST MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH, IP19 8LL

on **FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023 at 6.00 pm**

★ Refreshments will be available ★
★ Rosedale Christmas Memorial Tree ★



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The service is free to attend and open to everyone.



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St Mary's Church,
Halesworth**

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**It's time for
Christingle
again.**

**St. Mary's Church
Halesworth
Christmas Eve
4.30pm
ALL ARE WELCOME**

**CHEDISTON
CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**SATURDAY
2ND DECEMBER 2023**

IN: THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM,
CHEDISTON
2 PM TILL 4 PM

SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS,
RAFFLE, CAKES,
PRESERVES, TOMBOLA,
AND MORE...

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ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHEDISTON



**Saturday 16th December, 3pm
Candlelit service of carols and readings
+ mince pies and mulled apple juice**
A traditional service, enjoyed by many people
over many years.



All welcome.



**Wednesday 27th
December 2023
St Mary's Church
Halesworth**

COMMUNITY LUNCH

All Welcome!



12.30pm
Feast of Stephen
(baked spuds and
yummy fillings!)

FREE

Please call 01986 875541
to book a place
so we have an idea of numbers



**All Access
Carol
Service**

**St Mary's Church,
Halesworth**

**ON THURSDAY
DECEMBER 21ST
AT 2PM**

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Services across the Blyth Valley Churches during the Christmas season



Date	Church	Time	Service
Friday 8th December 2023	St Mary Halesworth	6pm	Rosedale's Service of Remembrance
Sunday 10th December 2023	St Peter Spexhall	3pm	Carol Service
Sunday 10th December 2023	St Margaret Heveningham	4pm	Carol Service
Sunday 17th December 2023	St Margaret Linstead	3pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 17th December 2023	St Andrew Bramfield	3pm	Carol Service
Sunday 17th December 2023	All Saints Blyford	3.30pm	Carol Service
Sunday 17th December 2023	St Peter Holton	4pm	Carol Service
Sunday 17th December 2023	St Andrew Wissett	6.30pm	Carol Service
Thursday 21st December 2023	St Mary Halesworth	2pm	All Access Carols
Friday 22nd December 2023	St Mary Huntingfield	2pm	Carol Service
Friday 22nd December 2023	St Peter Wenhaston	7pm	Carol Service
Friday 22nd December 2023	St Mary Halesworth	7pm	Town Carol Service
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Mary Walpole	3pm	Crib Service
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Peter Holton	4pm	Crib Service followed by Holy Communion
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Andrew Wissett	4pm	Crib Service
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Mary Halesworth	4.30pm	Christingle
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Peter Thorington	6.30pm	Carol Service
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Mary Chediston	6.45pm	Carol Service
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Mary Halesworth	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Margaret Heveningham	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday 24th December 2023	St Andrew Wissett	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Monday 25th December 2023	St Mary Halesworth	10am	Family Communion
Saturday 6th January 2024	St Andrew Wissett	6pm	Epiphany Service of Light