

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

August 2021

Volume 42

Issue 8

£1.00

Minimum Donation

St Peter's church Spexhall is open again!



And our final church to re-open – Spexhall St Peter – without electricity (see the poster on page 13), but back open and holding joyous services – outdoors just now. You may find many services are held at least partially outside over the summer – safer for all and means we can really sing out as well.

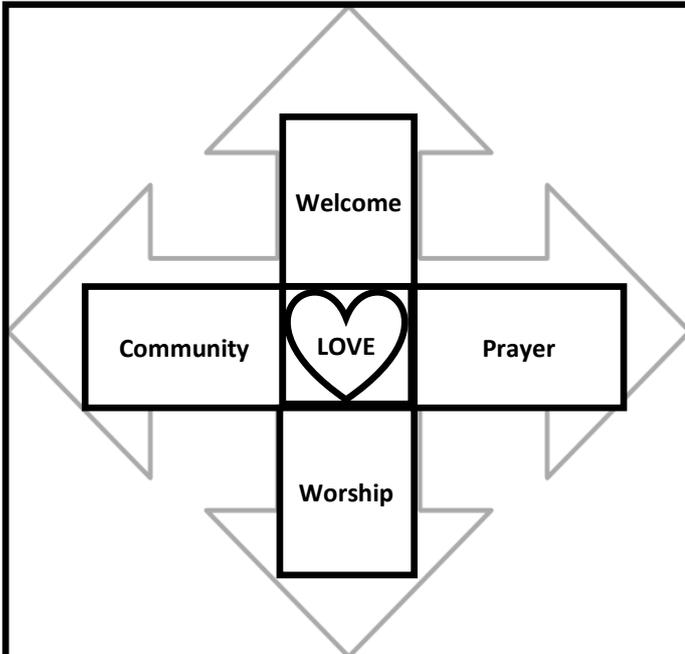
Always check the website (www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk) or check with the relevant churchwarden whether advertised services are going ahead in these uncertain times.

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

To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - (minimum donation £12 a year); or to request a postal subscription (£27 a year), please telephone 01986 875941 or 07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

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www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk



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VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

for the latest information on Services etc.

There are lots of news items on our Facebook page too.



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

Sunday Readings

25 July Eighth Sunday after Trinity 18 July Psalm 145,10-19 2 Kings 4,42-end Ephesians 3,14-end John 6,1-21	15 August The Blessed Virgin Mary Psalm 34,9-14 Proverbs 9,1-6 Ephesians 5,15-20 John 6,51-58
1 August Ninth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 78,23-29 Exodus 16,2-4,9-15 Ephesians 4,1-16 John 6,24-35	22 August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 34,15-end Joshua 24,1-2a,14-18 Ephesians 6,10-20 John 6,56-69
8 August Tenth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 34,1-8 1 Kings 19,4-8 Ephesians ,25-5.2 John 6,35,41-51	29 August Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Psalm 15 Deuteronomy 4,1-2,6-9 James 1,17-end Mark 7,1-8,14-15,21-23

TREASURER NEEDED!

The Friends of St Mary's Halesworth are still looking for a volunteer to act as Treasurer.

For more information please email:
win.sutton28@gmail.com

BVTM Team Office Opening Hours

The Team office in St Mary's Church is open on

Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am - 1pm.

On Wednesdays and Fridays, St Mary's Church Team office is closed, but the Team Administrator can be contacted on 07752 275328, between 9am and 1pm,

or via email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

If you have an urgent enquiry, please contact the Revd Jane Held on 07771 556391.

Email: jane@janeheld.co.uk

Blyth Valley Team Ministry - August 2021 Rota

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

Worship in the Blyth Valley in August 2021					
Year B – track 2	1st August Lammas Green	8th August Proper 14 Green	15th August The Blessed Virgin Mary Green	22nd August Proper 16 Green	29th August Proper 17 5th Sunday Green
Group 1					
Halesworth St Mary	10am TEAM Lammas Service Vic	10am Iona Worship Jason	10am TEAM Service Dominic	10am Eucharist with Baptism Jane	To Team Service
Holton St Peter	To Team Service	10am Eucharist David	To Team Service	10am Iona Service John	To Team Service
Group 2					
Wenhaston St Peter	To Team Service	10am Eucharist Anna	To Team Service	10am Pause for Thought Alison	10am 5th Sunday TEAM Service Dominic
Bramfield St Andrew	To Team Service	10am Morning Prayer Robert	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service
Blyford All Saints	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service
Thorington St Peter	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service
Group 3					
Chediston St Mary	To Team Service	10am Morning Service Margaret	To Team Service	10am Eucharist Dominic	To Team Service
Wissett St Andrew	To Team Service	10am Eucharist Alison	To Team Service	10am Breakfast Church Win	To Team Service
Spexhall St Peter	3pm Lammas Service Jane	To other services	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service
Linstead St Margaret	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service	9.30am Matins Malcolm	To Team Service
Group 4					
Cookley St Michael	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service	9.30am Sunday Eucharist Fr Jonathan	To Team Service
Heveningham St Margaret	To Team Service	10am Eucharist Vic	To Team Service	To other services	To Team Service
Huntingfield St Mary	To Team Service	10.30am Thanksgiving Service Jane	To Team Service	10am Eucharist David	To Team Service

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Peter Rayson

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

AUGUST 2021

- 1 Sue Groome
- 8 Revd Pam Bayliss MHA
- 15 Revd Louise Morrissey
- 22 Revd Robert Soanes
- 29 Revd Peter Rayson HC

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

Father Richard Ireson

E: richard1ireson@gmail.com

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Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

Gathered worship *continues* (Sundays 11am). And we have also re-started children and families' activities in the building, on Tuesdays. This has been very good, but is now suspended for school holidays and will be back in September. But we have the Holiday Club in the meantime, from Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th August.

Services on Zoom include:

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

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

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

Messy Church and additional events as announced.

Sunday mornings @ **11am** specifically:

Sun 1st Aug Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**).

Sun 8th Aug Gathered in the church building **Holiday Club all-age worship** (**and on Zoom**).

Sun 15th Aug Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**).

Sun 22nd Aug Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**).

Sun 29th Aug Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**).

Contacts:

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

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926, Passcode: 811885



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From the Rectory...

Introducing the Revd Dominic Doble

So it's August, time to prepare for a new school term? Time for a new haircut? Time for new life as a married couple? Time for a new bathroom? Well, it is time for a new vicar, or Rector to be precise! At 7.30pm on August 10th at St Mary's Halesworth, Dominic will be licenced as the Rector of the Blyth Valley Team and Priest in Charge of the Cluster. Actual attendance will be limited but the service will be available on our Facebook page and on Zoom using the code to be published before the service.

Dominic writes...

We moved to Halesworth last month from the Watercombe Benefice, just outside Dorchester in coastal Dorset. We both have family and friends in that part of the world, who will now be that much further away. However, we look forward to meeting and getting to know new people here. Some of you will be involved with church, some working in shops, farms and other businesses, some in schools, surgeries and elsewhere.

My wife, Liz, has been working supporting a team of project managers in an engineering defence company. She was not able to continue in that role working remotely, so resigned. We are really excited that Herrco in Halesworth have taken her on in a similar capacity in their cosmetics enterprise.

I have previously worked with the RSPB in Lincolnshire on events promoting a new reserve and the County Councils in Norfolk and Cambridge on strategy and maintenance of Public Rights of Way.

Whilst we will be leaving some things behind, we will be bringing our beautiful silver tabby farm cat Phoebe, and our somewhat less well presented, though handsome, German Wirehaired Pointer, Algy. Phoebe is an indoor cat to keep her safe from the roads, but you may get to meet Algy on our walks through town, along the river or out in the villages. We will continue our love of music and eating out, and the lugsail yawl, Lady Elizabeth, will be coming with us too!

That is the way with new things. There are some things that we find we have to say goodbye to, some things that are entirely fresh and new, and some things that stay the same. That is the same when exploring a new sport, hobby or faith. We have to get used to new appointments in our diaries, get to know new people, learn new skills knowledge, perhaps buy new clothes or other kit. There may be things that have to lose their priority to accommodate the changes, or are set aside as new interests or attitudes develop. Though other things may stay the same, same house, same relationship, same job.

The Blyth Valley Team will be having a *Team Away Day* on September 25th, from 10am at The Hub, Huntingfield. This will be a time to look at options for new things we think we could usefully introduce. It will be a time to perhaps say goodbye to some things that have served their purpose, done their time, but now may be better left behind. It will also be a time to look at things that are going well, that are really appreciated, that should stay. Ideas and thoughts that come up and are agreed by those present on that occasion, but will have to be endorsed by the Team and parishes before being acted on when the time comes.

So every blessing to everyone who is starting out on something new: a new term, a new job, a new treatment, or whatever it is. The Blyth Valley Team is always on the look out for new friends, new things we could support or new connections that could be good for us.

We are also keen to meet new people across town, in the villages, at the County show, at The Hub, and local hostelries. Don't be a stranger, say hello, introduce yourself. We look forward to getting to know our new neighbours, colleagues and friends as we start our new lives in this wonderful part of the world.

With every blessing,

Dominic and Liz



The Revd Dominic Doble and his wife Liz

BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY ONLINE SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY at 10am

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY at 10am

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

EVERY DAY

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

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

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

We have had a wonderful five week session of the re-introduction of families, children's and babies gatherings in the church building, leading up to the school holidays. And now we are about to have our Holiday Club.

From September, much more of the 'normal' life of the church will also be back in the building. Meanwhile, with the 'ban' on congregational singing lifted, along with other restrictions set aside, the gathered element of Sunday worship is growing, whilst Zoom remains available. (Sunday evenings are still Zoom only, and, of course, open to anyone. Ecumenical partners who don't have evening services are always welcome).

The mission of the whole church of Jesus Christ, expressed through each of our local churches as well as through us all via Churches Together and our more informal links, continues. Let's continue to seek God's face. Our own growing intimacy with the Lord is the basis from which we are sent by Jesus Christ – all of us – to play a part in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20). And the post-lockdown need for witnesses to Jesus Christ may well prove greater than ever!

We can also seek out opportunities for our own spiritual growth and equipping for ongoing service. One such is the Dunamis Project, including the local sessions that I have the privilege to lead, at Belsey Bridge just outside Bungay. The first session happened in March 2020 – the week that led into lockdown. After ongoing lockdown delays, we are now able to pick up again.

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

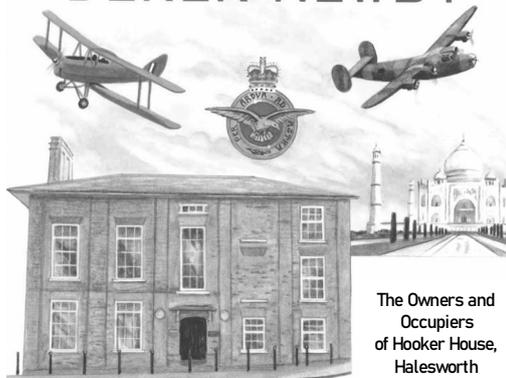
I would love to have folk from all churches of the Blyth Valley area join us there. Now is a good time to book places.

Blessings

Jon



The Life and Times of DEREK NEWBY



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

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Halesworth Bookshop

Rev on a Bike

Saturday 11th September

Revd Jane Held is doing a sponsored pillion ride on the back of a very well-known, yellow Harley called *Cheryl* 7 – ably ridden by an even better known Kingsley Elliff, round every single church in the Team and cluster – 14 churches, with a stop at each one.

A fetching helmet may be covering her grey frizz, but she will be fully dressed in flowing surplice and Cassock.



All funds raised are for the Regeneration Fund at St Mary's church Halesworth.

Jane would love to be sponsored – if only because she will be placing her arthritic hips in a stretched position for some considerable time!

Get in touch if you are happy to sponsor her!
07771 556391.



PARKING

at St Mary's Church Hall

Facebook readers will have already seen that we have now restricted the parking at St Mary's Church Hall to permit-holders only. This is partially because there were a lot of problems with parking, and those who had permits and had paid for them were unable to use the car park. There were also a lot of folk using it at night as a bit of a park up and party space.

In addition, however, as we have recently found out, the church, does not own that land, but leases it from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

For lots of reasons we stopped being billed annually for the lease and we, at St Mary's, lost all records of the lease agreement as personnel moved away or changed.

The long and the short of it is that we do now need to start paying the rent!

SO permits are £1 per day or £5 for seven days, and we can issue permits for one month, six months or one year.

We have a limited number of permits, as space is restricted. If you would like to apply for a permit, please contact Carolyn Clarke in the Team Office: Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com or telephone 01986 875941.



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Harvest Flower Festival and Heritage Open Days

Planning continues apace for this two header, two day event on **18th and 19th September 2021**.

A newly streamlined St Mary's offers plenty of space for the Flower Festival and a mix of heritage and music events, where there will be a chance to welcome back old friends and to introduce new (to us) performers.

Again we lean upon Sir William Argentine (1350-1429) to embody the endeavour which created the Mediaeval Church which stands in Steeple End and will be able to bring more details of his colourful life to you via a new audio trail, currently under development.

Encouragement has been given by the parent organiser, The National Trust, to enjoy our outdoors heritage, as

much as possible - this will be evident in the Town's programme of Open Heritage Days Events.

For our part we are designing a Family Trail, exploring the outside the church, which will include a quiz. Phone, camera and perhaps binoculars, could be useful.

Aside from the heritage and cultural programme, there will be flower arrangements to enjoy and a chance to vote for the 'People's Choice' trophy winner.

There will also be a 'Best in Show' prizewinner. Children are invited to join in the competition; their challenge being to create a garden in a tray (perhaps a seed tray).

There will be two classes, for those aged 4-7 and those aged 8-11.

Full details of the programme will be in next month's *BVTimes*.

If you would like to participate in the Flower Festival, please email: win.sutton28@google.com

A Wilkinson

for Friends of St Mary's

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MEMORIES AND STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH

By James W Newby. Compiled by Derek Newby
Covering over 130 years of one man's records of life in
Halesworth.

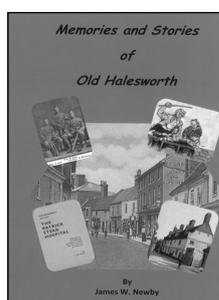
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Halesworth Museum

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Proceeds from the sale of this book
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St Mary's Regeneration Fund





Halesworth *dementia* Carers Fund

I-Chameleon Shop

HDCF took over the shop for one week in July to raise money for the fund. It was a great success, and after deducting expenses made nearly £1,100. We are delighted with this figure and would like to extend our grateful thanks to all who made it possible – all those who donated items for sale, all the volunteers who worked in the shop, and of course, all the lovely customers who came in and spent so generously.

Singing With Friends

For several months Helen Hayes has been running these sessions on Zoom. The great news is that from August 4th Helen will be going live at Holton Village Hall, from 2pm – 3.30pm. These sessions are open to all with dementia, and their carers and families. The HDCF Committee is deeply grateful to Helen for all her wonderful work and enthusiasm, and also to the East Suffolk Community Partnership Fund for helping to make it possible.

AGM

The Committee would like to give notice that the AGM will

take place on August 11th from 2pm – 4pm. It will be in The Stables at the Angel Hotel and all are welcome to attend.

Film at The Cut

Our next film will be *The Intern* and will be shown at The Cut on Wednesday 15th September. The film will be shown at the earlier time of 2pm, with doors open at 1.45pm. All are welcome, and our film shows are another way for us to raise money for our on-going work.

Arts and Craft Sessions

These sessions, sponsored by the Arts Council, will begin later in the Summer. Full details will be given when confirmed.

Finally, if you would like more information about HDCF, or any of the items mentioned above, please contact us at: information.hdcf@btinternet.com or contact our Secretary on 01986 875444.

JW

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(opposite the Library) Tel: **01986 873803**



VERONICA DOWNING
ASSOCIATES



News from the Community Larder

Not much to report this month although the Larder remains very busy and as always in need of donations in kind (or cash).

We are serving a steady 300 folk a month. We nearly have enough money to start the work on refurbishing the kitchen in the church hall, but sadly, we still need to raise another £5000. Lots of grant bids are being made.

We have had some planters donated, so we can start even more vegetable growing now.

Faith Hope and Charity (our hens) are well, and laying an egg each a day.

The Larder is a great community resource, here for everyone to use. Our dream is to have the outdoor space furnished with tables and chairs, too, so we

HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

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

can meet each other over coffee, and do activities outside. We also hope to have a fully functioning kitchen where we can make refreshments, provide community lunches and hold cooking classes.

We are always happy to hear from people who would like to volunteer to do a shift or two as well. Please contact either the Revd Jane on 07771 556391 or Halesworth Volunteer Centre on 01986 875600, if you are interested.



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ST MARY'S HALESWORTH REGENERATION NEWS! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The floor in St Mary's is nearly finished and will be ready to paint soon. Ben Quorn and Team and Simon the plumber have done an amazing job and we are already discovering how much easier it is moving about the church. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** now for the 3rd and 4th August please, to paint the floor and help move all the furniture back to its correct place, ready to welcome Dominic into his new role.

Anyone willing to do an hour, a few hours, half a day or a full day, please contact Revd Jane, email: jane@janeheld.co.uk or telephone 07771 556391.

The next stage of fund-raising is for the installation of loos, and a servery kitchen area.



Halesworth Area Community Bus

Despite the Government's change in the Covid-19 restrictions from 19th July, you will still be required to wear a face covering on the Hoppa bus.

We hope you all understand why we have taken this decision. We want to keep our staff and passengers safe as this pandemic is far from over.



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East Suffolk proudly working in partnership with GoGeronimo, Beccles Forest School, KindaEducation, Halesworth Town Council, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership, District and County Councillors, Halesworth Campus and the Apollo Centre. The activities will be run in a Covid-19 secure way.

GET READY FOR SOME OUTDOOR...

SUMMER FUN!

IN HALESWORTH EVERY FRIDAY

STARTING 30TH JULY FOR 5 WEEKS - 11AM - 2PM

HALESWORTH CAMPUS, HARRISONS LANE, IP19 8PY

30TH JULY 6TH AUGUST
13TH AUGUST 20TH AUGUST
27TH AUGUST

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To find out what is on each day and to book your place, go to www.gogeronimo.net/halesworthsummeractivities

Staying Safe

We believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27).

We are sure that everyone who reads this will understand that, in order to show our care and love for each other and our communities, we have decided to retain all our Covid-19 Secure measures in exactly the same way as the last 18 months, for another month. We are expecting everyone who visits, worships at, or has to come into any of our churches to continue to:

- Zap the app OR sign in
- Sanitise your hands before coming in
- Wear a face mask (unless exempt/under 15)

- Stay socially distanced
- Sanitise regularly during worship and on leaving the church

Each church will have agreed maximum capacity levels to maintain reasonable social distancing.

We will also continue our arrangements for communion without any changes at present.

Weddings and funerals will be subject to individual detailed risk assessments and decisions will be made on numbers and other details accordingly.

We will review the situation regularly and update the website if we relax any of our current precautions.



Revd Jane Held

“LET THERE BE LIGHT”

HELP US KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!

St Peter's Church SPEXHALL has failed its safety certificate

WE NEED

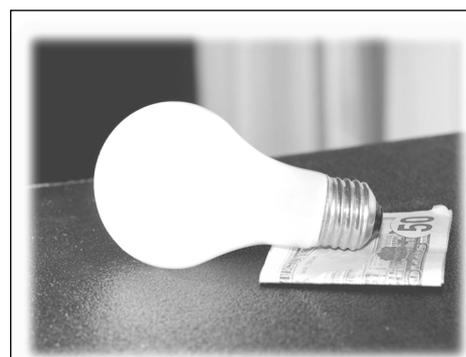
£5,000 - £8,000 to repair it

All donations very welcome!

Details of how to donate:

Jane: 0771556391 or jane@janeheld.co.uk

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



**CONTACT DETAILS
FOR
THE BLYTH VALLEY
TEAM MINISTRY**

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office.bvtm@gmail.com**

**TEAM TREASURER:
treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com**

**BLYTH VALLEY TIMES:
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com**

**Office hours: Tuesday to
Friday,
9am - 1pm.
Tel 01986 875941
or 07752 275328**

**Please note the Team
Administrator is working in the
office in St Mary's church on
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
and working from home
on Wednesdays and Fridays.**

**WHAT SHALL WE DO
WITH THE KIDS TODAY?**

Now we're back in action, Halesworth and District Museum is delighted to meet and greet the visitors from near and far who are finding their way again to the 'Museum in the Station'.

One of the most pleasing things for our loyal band of volunteers and stewards has been the visit of groups of children from Holton Primary School, which have livened up the day for us – not least when they took it in turns to ring the workhouse bell that once hung in the tower of the Bulcamp House of Industry. The stewards at the Museum always look forward to these school visits; inquisitive, well-behaved children can often see the exhibits on display with a fresh, clear eye. We learn from them just as much as they do from their visit.

With children and parents – and summer holidays - in mind, we've this year put together a quiz sheet for children to make their visits even more interesting and exciting. So if you find yourself wondering what to do with the kids on those long days of the holidays, look no further. Remember, we're open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am till 12.30pm and on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm till 4pm.

Our great hope at the moment is to extend those opening hours in the not too distant future. With more stewards to welcome visitors and show them the ropes, we'd love to open for more hours, particularly in the afternoons. With this in mind, a 'recruiting campaign' is underway. We've already taken on four new volunteers and with just a few more, we could achieve our goal of afternoon opening. If you'd like to spend a few hours with our very friendly team, we'd love to hear from you. And it's not just stewards we're after. We've already managed to recruit a photographer to work on creating an image-bank of our collections. We could also do with some help on our website, on working on our catalogue, researching the collections, designing displays, helping with publicity. If you've got some skills that might be useful and want to use them in a worthwhile – and fascinating – cause that need not take up too much of your time and can be enjoyed with a team that likes a good laugh while they make their contribution to the history of the area, send us an e-mail at office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk call Brian, our Curator on 07715 679711 for a no-commitment chat, or just drop in. We would love to hear from you.

**DATES FOR
YOUR DIARIES**

BOOK THE DATE:

**10th August 2021, St Mary's Halesworth 7.30pm
(or on Zoom depending on Covid-19 regulations)**

The Licensing of the Revd Dominic Doble as Team Rector and Priest in Charge Blyth Valley Team Ministry and Heveningham with Ubbeston, Huntingfield and Cookley.

Please pray for Dominic and Liz as they prepare to move here and take up their ministry with us.

**BLYTH VALLEY PARKINSONS
SUPPORT GROUP**

**COFFEE
MORNING**

Wenhaston Village Hall

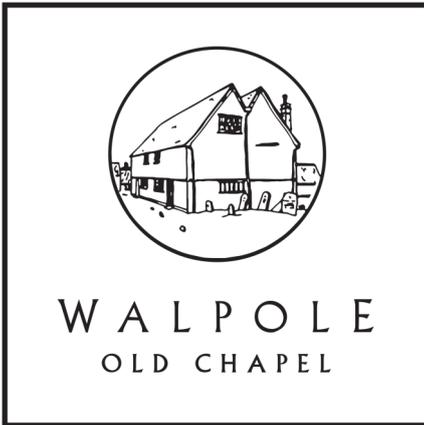
Wednesday 11th August

10am to 11.30am

Raffle, stalls.

In aid of Parkinsons work in the area.

Please come and support us!



WALPOLE OLD CHAPEL: A PAST REVEALED

Walpole Old Chapel, as we now call it, has stood quietly beside the road between Halesworth and Walpole for well over 350 years. For nearly 300 of those years it was a place of worship for people from Walpole and for others who travelled miles every Sunday to join in the services. Born in a time of conflict and persecution, it has echoed to the voices of preachers and been filled with the sound of hymns.

The unassuming exterior, easily passed by without notice, hides an interior which would be completely recognisable today to any returning spirit from the 17th century. In fact, the Chapel has a very strong claim to being the earliest Congregational Chapel in the country. If we call it the oldest unaltered Congregational Chapel then there are no contenders. We are living near a national gem.

Perhaps because it has sat so modestly in the Suffolk countryside, there is still much we do not know about its history. Who were the people who worshipped or preached here? Where did they come from? Were they tradesfolk, farmers, labourers? What were their services like? And what part did the Chapel play in the life of the village?

To answer some of these questions, a year-long community history project, the Walpole Old Chapel Discovery Project, is set to get underway in September. A group of volunteers, backed with advice and guidance from a historian, will be setting out to discover some of the answers to these questions. At the end, we hope there will be a new and much clearer understanding of the life of the Chapel and a better appreciation for visitors of its very special character and history.

There is still time to get involved in the project. No experience is required; curiosity and the willingness to give up some time over the course of a year and perhaps develop some new skills are more important.

If you would like to know more or just to talk it through to see if you think it is for you, you can contact Vic Gray, the Project Leader, email: VicGray8a@gmail.com or you can ring him on 01986 872437.

We hope you might join us on what will be a fascinating journey.

BVTimes Subscriptions

There are still a few **outstanding payments** due for **2021/22 BVTimes** door-to-door subscriptions. Please could you either let your *BVTimes* distributors have your payment asap please, or take your payment into the Team Office in St Mary's church, Halesworth.

If you prefer, you can make your payment directly into the *BVTimes* bank account - details below. Please could you let your local distributor know if you wish to pay online, and please ensure you add the reference **BVT sub and your name** with your payment. Thank you!

2021-2022 annual subscriptions (costing £12) are valid from the May'21 issue and will expire with the April'22 issue. Those who wish to enrol in a subscription within this period, will be charged a pro-rata cost.

Thank you again to those of you who have paid and renewed your subscription, your continued support is very much appreciated.

BVTimes bank account details:

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NO BAD FEET Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

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**I AM AVAILABLE FOR HOME VISITS
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The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



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Carolyn Clarke: *Clerk to Team Council & Team Administrator.*

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CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

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Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Veronica Downing	01986 873184
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby John Ball	01986 873336 01986 874962
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevett	01986 875913 01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods	01986 781256
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478267
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

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Blyth Valley Times

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

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Please ensure all copy is emailed to blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for ALL copy for the September 2021 issue is:

Wednesday 18th August 2021. Publishing date: Thursday 26th August 2021

Advertising: Advertising starts from only £48 per year.

Links to your website from our website, £5 per year.

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BVTimes: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU? NEED A LISTENING EAR???

*If you or someone you know needs a prayer or
you have something on your mind or heart*

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

If you live in Halesworth, Wissett, Spexhall, Chediston, Linstead, Walpole, Heveningham, Ubbeston, Huntingfield or Cookley: **Rev'd Jane is at the end of her phone (07771 556391) call, text or email jane@janeheld.co.uk**

If you live in Wenhasston, Thorington, Bramfield, Blyford, Holton: **Rev'd Alison is at the end of her phone (01502 478855) call, text or email alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk**

WORSHIP AND PRAYER IN THE BLYTH VALLEY

You can join in a daily service (on Facebook - Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk page) - 9am Monday - Friday (currently not on Wednesdays); 9.30am Sat/Sun; 9.30pm all week, 10am Zoom café worship

• AND/OR

You can use a service we have prepared for use at home at the same time as we are worshipping – available on www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk or by post

• AND/OR

And you can contact Jane (07771 556391) or Alison (07584416277) for a private prayer and worship service on the phone

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News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442
acackett@me.com

Well the church has reopened. Thank you to all those who helped clean and get it ready for opening.

We had our first fund raiser (Plant Sale), and it went very well. We made £170.26 which is amazing, thank you to all who helped, provided plants and just came to support us at this difficult time. There are still some plants outside my house (6 The Street, Holton) available to buy if you want any.

As we go into a new start for the church, it has been decided that we will become a Festival Church, I would be interested in your views on this.

We held our APCM online and the following were elected onto the PCC: Phyllis Felton, John Handley, Geoff Cackett and myself - Alison Cackett. I am currently Secretary, Treasurer and Churchwarden, so if anyone is interested in a job please let me know. Many hands make light work.

I am also currently looking to see if anyone would take responsibility for flowers in church, please let me know if you are interested.

Again thank you for your assistance and we look forward to seeing you all in the future. God bless.

Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held
07771 556391

www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

Today is a wonderful sunny day, warming up rapidly which bodes well for this afternoon's outdoor Neale and Archer leavers' ceremony at Bramfield Primary School. 15 leavers, all poised on the edge of their next big life adventure, growing up and going off to secondary school (equipped with their Leaver's Bibles from us at Church). The school have been amazing, as have all the students and their families over the last year. A year of on-and-off school-based time, much online learning, bubbles and frustrations, but they have all coped so well. We wish them all

well, - the teachers for a good break over the summer, the students for a brilliant holiday with their families. I really hope that come the return to school things may have become a little more like school should be.

St Andrews is now open every day and with the influx of visitors to our lovely part of Suffolk is getting lots of casual visitors as well as visitors with a serious academic interest in the church interior and architecture. The inclusion of Bramfield in the EADP article on the 12 most historic and beautiful churches in Suffolk has added to our visitor numbers too.

I am so very glad though that our jewel of a pub is taking the health and safety of everyone seriously. With Latitude looming and visitor numbers increasing, keeping safe remains a key concern, despite the lifting of restrictions proposed for the 19th July. By the time you read this we will know what the regulations are from the Church of England – and we anticipate masks and hand sanitisers and no or limited singing, as well as care over numbers in churches will be with us for some time.

We are so pleased we now have a regular Thursday service at church too, and at least one if not two services a month as well. Worship is better attended than it has been for some years, although we still desperately miss the wonderful music we were treated to by John Stevenson and prayer is said regularly in church. And joy of joys we have two baptisms booked in, one in August and one in September. Welcoming a new child into our church family and celebrating with their families is always so lovely. After 17 months or so of Covid-19 life, Church life and village life sometimes feel to me to be quite separate entities. I am always fascinated by the role the church does or does not play in village life in Bramfield and would love to hear from anyone who may have ideas about the things we could do together, or the ways in which our church can become a more relevant part of village life.

We are all looking forward to welcoming the Revd Dominic Doble, his wife Liz, and their lovely dog and

cat to the team, and to Bramfield. He arrives in early August and hopefully will be leading a service at Bramfield during September. I am sure however he will be keen to meet Bramfield folk in lots of different ways.

Chediston

Correspondent

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

Farewell to Graeme and Ann

On 27 June we gathered after church in the churchyard for "drinks and nibbles" and presented Graeme and Ann with a willow garden trug which was made locally, together with a garden voucher from us all. We wish them well as they head for a new life in Yorkshire nearer to their family. We are going to miss them very much.

Will Drew-Batty

We also say farewell to Will who has played the organ for us for several years. We have appreciated his rousing music – he has really brought the "Copeman Hart" back to life. We wish him all the best in the future.

Gardener's Exchange

We came out of hibernation to meet at last in person at Hedgerows, Chediston for our second face to face monthly meeting since March 2020. Thank you to Katie Douglas for letting us see your



very pretty garden. Your flower colour and shape contrasts and general choice of plants provided lots of ideas. Our group started in Chediston when we discovered how many of us loved growing plants and vegetables. It's that enjoyment that we have in common, and our group has unknowledgeable, enthusiastic gardeners (like me) and very experienced and knowledgeable ones! We have many members from Halesworth and Linstead as well. Our name tells you that we like to swap plants and seeds as well as swapping garden stories and tips. Our next meetings are on Friday 20th August at Bridge Farm, Chediston and Monday 13th September at Mount Pleasant Farm, Chediston. Please ring Theresa Hardy, 07989888531 or Julia Wilson, 07496785775 if you would like to join us.

Chediston & Linstead WI

Simon de Laat of the East Anglian Air Ambulance came to our meeting on July 13th and gave us a very interesting and informative talk on the EAAA and how they operate in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Jubilee Duke reopening

We are really pleased to announce that the Chediston Pop Up Pub, the Jubilee Duke, will be reopening once a month from the end of July.

The pub was started two years ago and runs in the old Chediston school room. It's a great chance to meet other villagers and chat with friends, old and new. Bookings for the first few openings will be limited to 16, to be on the safe side and our opening night in July sold out within 24 hours of being publicised on Facebook and the website. Keep an eye out for the August date on the Parish Council Facebook page and website.

Date for your Diary

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

Join the fun - Chediston churchyard annual spruce up - 1st August

Come and meet your friends and neighbours, tidying up the wildflower meadows and strimming around the gravestones.

While this may not sound like your idea of a social gathering, for the last few years (excluding last year due to covid-19 restrictions) we've had 15-20 people joining the team and much fun and laughter has been had. Many hands make light work. So, if you can spare some time, even as little as half an hour helps, you would be most welcome. Any standard tools you may have to help such as strimmers, rakes, shears, wheelbarrows etc, just bring them along and get stuck in. The annual churchyard spruce up takes place on Sunday 1st August, from 9am. **We hope to see you there!**

Chediston Car Boot Sale –

8th August - reminder

Pitches must be pre-booked in advance and will only cost £5. To book your pitch contact Jo Wareham: Email: joanna@hernehillfarm.co.uk Phone: 07711 066727

Gates will open at **8am for stall holders** to set up and 9am for punters.

Chediston entertainment and events

Are you interested in sharing ideas or planning socials and other activities? We have several events coming up – from our Car Boot Sale to the reopening of the Jubilee Duke. And there has been talk of village picnics and other celebrations.

One big event we are hoping to arrange is a celebration for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Various ideas have been proposed from a village fete with picnic or BBQ and live music, as well as competitions for art, baking etc, and maybe even a dog show!

If you have any ideas or suggestions or would be interested in joining a team to help brainstorm and plan future events in our village, from small gatherings to larger celebrations, please email chedlinweb@gmail.com or joanna@hernehillfarm.co.uk

Chediston Community Garden update

All is going well in the Chediston community garden. The children have been planting out their pumpkins and returning to ensure they are kept well-



Photos from a previous Chediston churchyard annual spruce-up.

watered. We look forward to sharing the 'largest pumpkin' competition results later this year.



BVTimes Subscriptions

We still have a few 2021-22 payments outstanding from Chediston residents for their *BVTimes* subscriptions. Please could those of you who have not yet "settled up", let Sally Aldous (01986 873363) have your payment, alternatively you can pay for your subscription online - *BVTimes* account details can be found on page 15 of this issue. Thank you.

Halesworth

**Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336**

It is 9.32pm on Saturday 17th July, I am sitting in the garden cooling down listening to Jane read Night Prayer on Facebook, after what has been the hottest day of the year, writing my

Blyth Valley Times

article (*five days late, sorry Carolyn*). I feel very exasperated at the moment. Sarah and I enjoy watching two American drama series. One is called *Gray's Anatomy* (basically it is the American version of *Casualty*) which we have been following since the very beginning some ten years ago, the other is a spin-off called *Station 19* (following the lives of a fire crew). Both series are based in the city of Seattle and there is a little bit of an overlap. However, much as I love getting lost in the storylines and sharing in the frustrations of the love stories, the drama, the blood and operations, or the tediously far-fetched story lines from the fire house, both series have caught up with Coronavirus and I don't think I have the emotional energy to relive the first lockdown, to see, hear, feel the numbingly sombre emotions of those who lost loved ones who they couldn't sit with at the end. To see the exhaustion of doctors and nurses. It wouldn't surprise me if in years to come Tom Hanks will be playing Chris Whitty (and in my opinion Rowan Atkinson wouldn't be a bad Boris Johnson!) in some film drama based on Covid. One thing which does calm me down, at the end of the day is reading/listening to Night Prayer. 15 minutes of stillness, calmness, listening to the word of God, praying, remembering at the end of the day. A chance to take a breath and remember the Lord Almighty will grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Here is a summary of what we have been up to in St Mary's this past month:

On 29th June, John H and John B, Fred, myself and Jane gathered for the 2021 Archdeacon's Visitation Service for the Waveney & Blyth Deanery which was on Zoom. We give thanks for the work of all churchwardens, a rewarding, but also painfully tedious role at times.



We welcomed local Musical Director Vetta Wise and six singers with Tim Patient on the piano to St Mary's for

August 2021

another singing Masterclass. It is such a joy to hear music returning to Church, we pray, pray and pray week in, week out, that we will be able to sing once again very soon.



On July 6th St Mary's church clock stopped. Can you believe the 195 year-old clock can be stopped by a pigeon's nest! If you look at the north clock face, just above the number six, the twigs of the nest stick out far enough to stop the clock! Time for International Rescue (Mr W and Mr B with Mrs W's long window cleaning gadget to save the day! Then the chimes will ring out again.



With all eyes in August pinned on the arrival of our new Team Rector Dominic, his wife Liz, Algy the dog and Phoebe the cat, the licensing and installation service takes place on Tuesday 10th August.

The Team Choir and, hopefully, the congregation will be singing three hymns *Lord of all Hopefulness*, *There's a wideness in God's mercy* to the beautiful tune Corvedale and a personal favourite but only because I have an almighty FULL ORGAN descant to the hymn *Lord for the years*.

We pray for Dominic and Liz as they move... Generous God, help us to treasure the memories of the place we leave behind, bless and protect the friends from whom we now part, and give us confidence to reach out in hospitality to others in our new home. May your Spirit travel with us, and meet us in the faces of new friends. For our journey, now and throughout our lives, begins and ends with you, Lord, whose

praises we sing wherever we make our home. Amen.

Well it is now 10.12pm, I can barely see my laptop to type and my brain can't think of anything else to write. I'm sure to have missed something.

Anyway, enough rambling from me. Stay safe, enjoy your summer, we continue our prayer for the Covid-19 situation.... God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

Results of the latest draw were as follows: 1st prize: Mrs Y Eady; 2nd prize: Dr W Pagan; 3rd prize: Mr P Cockerton.

Holton

Temporary Correspondent

John Hewlett 01986 875913

johnfhewlett@btinternet.com

My Favourite Film:

2021 Flower Festival

As I write we are looking forward to our Flower Festival on July 24th and 25th; if you have your copy of *BVTimes* delivered very early, you will be in time to catch the church full of flowers.

Dot Booley writes:

It's getting near that time again when on our thinking caps go;

We had to miss a lot last year but now we have Lateral flow.

So we all have to make a choice which film we think is best,

I'm sure the flowers will tell the tale, our imagination will do the rest.

There's bound to be some musicals, as we all love to sing;

I'm sure the famous ladies will be wearing lots of bling;

And comedies in black and white which always make us smile.

The bits and pieces we collect sometimes will take a while.

There are Gazebos to collect, Raffle tickets to be bought,

The Tombola to be organised with numbers five and nought.

The Church to clean and polish, and we'll wash up all the mugs;

Then we will meet in church to

decorate with flowers in our trugs.

It's cakes and sausage rolls to bake, cheese scones on the day.

The Church will be full of powerful scent from our flowers on display.

Families and friends all will come to enjoy some tea and the flowers.

And on Sunday we will sing together at the end of those busy hours.

We are lucky to live in a place where people support the church,

And put on such an amazing show by doing their research.

The next twelve months we hope will be easier for us to bear,

When we can all live normally showing everyone we care

Children's Society Box Opening

30.9.21

I am hoping with the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions nationally on July 19th we shall be able to go ahead with our Box Opening on Thursday 30th September.

We do not yet know what the advice from the Church of England nationally will be as far as holding such events in church, and whether we will be able to have refreshments. We are trying a midweek morning rather than a Saturday. The time will be 10am till 12 midday. Please will box holders put the date in your diaries and on your calendars.

Not everyone is using cash these days, but cheques, made out to 'The Children's Society', are always most acceptable, also notes rather than coins. If your box is becoming rather full I suggest you use a jam jar or money bag/plastic bag and make sure you label it with your name before the day.

I do hope those who usually help with counting the money, serving refreshments (if that's allowed) and selling the raffle tickets, will be available to lend a hand on the morning. I will endeavour to ask everyone in due course.

If you are unable to make it on the morning please can you get your box to me beforehand or give it to a friend to bring. It would be good to have all the boxes to open on that morning. It makes life much easier for us.

In a letter earlier in the year Mark Russell, Chief Executive of The Children's Society wrote 'When we work together we achieve incredible things. From providing in-person support to over 11,000 young people,

to campaigning to provide 15,000 migrant children with access to free legal aid, last year your support has brought hope to so many young lives. Thanks to you, we've been able to stay in touch with vulnerable children throughout the Coronavirus crisis, and deliver the online therapy and professional help they needed to stay safe and keep their hope alive'.

Janet Walkey,

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

janetwalkey@hotmail.com

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

TOTE - JULY DRAW

1st prize: Jackie Baxter; 2nd prize: Mike Carlill and Sarah Marsden; 3rd prize: Jenny Tovell; 4th prize: Joan Morley.

This was the first draw of the new Tote year !

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke

sally.clarke@live.com

Here we are nearly at the end of July and summer hasn't really got started, perhaps by the time you are reading this we will be in the middle of a heat wave and at long last the grass will have stopped growing. Who would have thought that the length of grass in a church yard could be such a contentious issue? We have folk who compliment us on the areas that we have left for the wild flowers and bees to thrive on and then there are those who constantly request that the grass is cut back. In another couple of months this won't be a problem when the grass slows down and our fantastic volunteers can once more keep on top of everything.

On Saturday 10th July we held a successful Table Top Sale and Afternoon Tea in the church and churchyard respectively. What a lovely afternoon we had. People came and browsed the tables and many went home with a bargain. Our tea tent looked the part with Union Jack bunting all around it - (Well done England, you played a brilliant final and inspired many with your team spirit) it was so good to see people sitting with their tea and cake chatting with friends and neighbours, we really have missed socialising and this was the first 'baby steps' to returning to normality.

We are lucky at Huntingfield that we get a constant stream of visitors to the church. Much has been written about St Mary the Virgin and its magnificent ceiling. Many book clubs are choosing to read Pamela Holmes' novel, *The Huntingfield Paintress* followed by a visit to the church to check out the ceiling for themselves. We are now offering 'small group tours' led by a member of the PCC who will give a brief outline of the history of the church, points of historic interest and of course discuss details of the ceiling. At the end of the tour there is tea or coffee with homemade cake or scones. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to purchase a copy of *The Huntingfield Paintress*, please contact our churchwarden; Emma Ward on 01986 785343.

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT BATED breath actually is, or how one goes about holding it but as I write we await freedom day, wondering if it is such a good idea. We will not be making a bonfire of facemasks on the village green, not least because we don't have a village green. We seem to have been waiting an eternity for someone to tell us that 'it' is all over, only to realise that it probably never will be, quite. So not exactly a Brave New World; just rather timid old one.

HOWEVER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO welcoming the arrival of the Revd Dominic Doble as our new Team Rector. He will be our sixth Rector. The original team had the Rector, a team vicar and just five parishes.

ONE HEARS ABOUT GATED communities but the dead of Linstead have been ungated since a thoughtful motorist demolished the church gates towards the end of 2019.



We now have a very smart set of new gates which we have set back a little bit

more from the road, to try and protect them from the next motorist who seems determined to arrive in Heaven the hard way.



These are in fact the fourth set of gates we have had in living memory, the first set having been demolished by a jeep in 1944, the next set succumbed (as did the tree alongside the gates) to a Vauxhall which came to grief on a patch of black ice.

We are very grateful to Derek Keable who oversaw the construction of the new gates and undertook their installation. In the autumn, some more hedging will be planted to landscape the gates into the existing hedge.

IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAINTY STILL surrounding the future, it was decided not to hold the annual Village Fête again this year.

HOWEVER, IT IS STILL OUR RESOLVE to hold the Harvest Festival on Sunday October 3rd at 6.30pm and the Harvest Supper on Saturday October 16th, from 7.30pm, so please put these dates in your diary.

CHEDISTON & LINSTead WI MET IN July and heard Simon de Laat talk about the work of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. In answer to the question, yes he had seen Prince William once or twice. The WI meets next at 2.30pm on Tuesday 10th August for a Garden Meeting at Grove Farm, by kind permission of Sarah Hackshall. I am told that there will be refreshments, games and general merrymaking.

THE SERVICE IN AUGUST WILL BE Mattins on Sunday 22nd at 9.30am.

ROTAS FOR AUGUST

DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING

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

Spexhall

Correspondents

Janet and David Sochon

davidsochon@gmail.com

How wonderful after a period of dormancy to spring back to report the

doings in Spexhall and to outline future events.

On a fine and sunny afternoon St Peter's patronal festival service was held in the churchyard with some 20 worshippers. There was much lusty singing and fervent prayer and it felt as if the enervating weight of Covid had been lifted from our shoulders. Lovely! After the service we adjourned to the village hall for refreshments (as is customary in Spexhall) and the ceremonial opening of the newly refurbished toilets... very posh!! Our thanks must go to all the village hall committee for enabling us to have such facilities which must be the pride of the area.

And so, after the tea and cakes, back to the pightle where a performance (and the word is used advisedly) of the mechanics play from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was directed by Keith. Emma's Bottom will be remembered for some time to come. The evening concluded with pizza and wine, a bonfire and fireworks - thanks to the generosity and hospitality of Francis and Elizabeth.

Bad news... St Peter's failed its electricity safety check and so we shall be an "energy free" zone until funds are raised to renew the system, but...

Good news... St Peter's is to be cleaned in readiness for the traditional Lammas service on August 1st and by the time that this is published no doubt volunteers will have donned pinnies, overalls, and gloves to clean the church after its lengthy hibernation. It will be lovely to celebrate the traditional first service ("Loaf - mass") after the harvest in a lovely clean country church.

More good news... Like the whole benefice, we look forward eagerly to the arrival of Dominic at the end of July and pray for him and his family as they pursue God's mission among us.

Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower

01502 478267

Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

margaret@wrush.plus.com

Well 'Summer' has been a little

disappointing, rather changeable and not always warm but we must be thankful that we don't have the very high temperatures that the west coast of the USA and Canada are experiencing at present. At least our climate is temperate and unpredictable! Something to discuss with those we meet.

The Revd Dominic Doble will be installed as the Blyth Valley Team Rector by the Bishop on August 10th, and we look forward to welcoming him to Wenhaston on August 29th for a Team Service at 10am. We hope that Dominic and his wife Liz will be very happy here among us.

We still hope to have a Jumble Sale on September 18th and a Quiz with Thorington on October 22nd, both in Village Hall. Please put these dates in your diaries. Anyone who is available to help in any way will be very welcome.

Our services for the month of August are as follows:-

1st August: Team Service at Halesworth at 10am; 8th August: Eucharist at 10am; 15th August: Team Service at Halesworth (Dominic's first service) 10am; 22nd August: Pause for Thought 10am; 29th August: Team Service at Wenhaston 10am.

WENHASTON WALKS

On Tuesday 3rd August, a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

On Tuesday 17th August there will be a four mile footpath walk around Carlton Marshes. We will meet for a 10am start at the visitor centre in Burnt Hill Lane. It's on the A146 and is opposite the Warren School gate and signposted. Bring a pair of binoculars as there will be an opportunity to stop at one or more of the bird hides. Lunch details will be circulated in due course. Any queries, contact Helen Bowyer 01502 478209 or Liz Cunningham 01502 478964.

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

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wissett

Correspondent Nick Evans

01986 872372

nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

Very warm summer days did not go on for long, and life continues quietly. Looking back to August 2019, there was plenty to write about, and in fact normal life here might have seemed rather frantic, especially for event organisers. Will there be the same energy to get the Wissett social dynamo turning over again? We are all only two years older. Therefore it is good to announce that the Barbecue has been fixed for Thursday 26th August, and details will be posted.

Then we hope you will put in your diary the Harvest Festival and supper, on Friday 10th September. The next day will be Gift Day: I do not like mentioning money, but the Treasurer has to, and our income has been much reduced by the Covid pandemic, so please take this opportunity to help us through another year. 11th September is also the day of the Historic Churches Bike Ride. The average number of riders for Wissett has been about one recently, and he has another

engagement this year; choosing some churches and cycling round to them is a nice way of spending the day, and raising sponsorship money for the church: do think of joining – details next month.

The PCC met in the church on July 8th, narrowly avoiding a criminal offence by realising at the 11th hour that more than six of us could not meet in The Lodge as planned. We look forward to meeting the Revd Dominic Doble, who will be instituted as Team Rector on August 10th. It might be legal to sing by then, though we will still have to rely on recorded music: George Long played the left hand on the organ, with Jenny Ball on the right, but George has now moved to Norfolk, and no replacement for one or both hands, and even pedals as well, is in sight. We also need more people to lead the intercessions at most services.

It is mildly embarrassing not to have a plan of the graves in the churchyard, and also a shame not to have recorded the historic but eroding inscriptions on the stones. A plan was made some years ago, but the only copy disappeared. Now Mary Pester is going to make a new one, when she has short breaks from looking after her large vicarage garden.

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

Jonathan Ash and Emma Mansfield at Chediston

Andrew Howlett and Debra Barritt-Cunningham at Wenhaston

Joseph Scorer and Hayley Oakes at Laxfield

Thomas Eames and Rebecca Burroughes at Chediston

FUNERALS/BURIAL OF ASHES

Cynthia Osborne at Thorington

Barbara Anne Allen at Halesworth

Angela Jean Stannard at Walpole

Gordon Picton Turbervill at Halesworth

Vera Ratcliffe at Huntingfield

Timothy Haythornthwaite at Huntingfield

Sheena Margaret Farrow at Halesworth

Raymond Gerald Adams at Waveney Memorial Park

LOCAL NEWS

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

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

Friends of St Mary's

St Mary The Virgin Church, Halesworth

A little bit of history

St Mary's is not an ostentatious church, nor does it flaunt the treasures that it holds, quietly and discretely, for the peaceful contemplation of its visitors; it has not an embarrassment of riches¹, more, is there hidden treasure tucked away. And, not all is ancient, mediaeval, or Victorian.

The statue of Madonna and Child (2000) found on the oak altar in the Lady Chapel, is by Peter Eugene Ball, and made from driftwood found on Suffolk beaches. An English sculptor, born in 1943 in Coventry, (the city where, some two years earlier, the Cathedral Church of St Michael had been heavily bombed during WW2), and where he attended Coventry College of Art. Peter Ball is best known for his religious work which can be seen in churches and cathedrals throughout Britain; he also produces secular sculpture using predominately driftwood and found objects such as railway sleepers, bells and ropes to create figures, often with an historical, mythical or literary origin, His work is exhibited and sold across Europe and America.²

The frontal for the Lady Chapel altar (2006) was designed and embroidered by Jacquie Binns, and dedicated to the memory of Pam Smith, lately churchwarden. Jacquie Binns was born in West Cowes, Isle of Wight, in 1963; after her family moved to Manchester she studied at Loreta College and Manchester Polytechnic, and then at Goldsmiths College in London. She worked on garments for the theatre and began making her first vestments for the church, developing into a designer and creator of hand-finished embroidered vestments, stoles, banners, altar cloths, funeral palls and icons; she also works as a sculptor. The works of Jacquie Binns show inspiration from the elements, from people and from the Bible, and can be found in private and public collections in the UK, America, Canada, Australia and Europe. Recently she designed and made the richly embroidered funeral pall for King Richard III, displayed covering the coffin in the weeks leading to the re-interment of his remains at Leicester Cathedral in March 2015. A funeral pall, from the Latin *pallium* meaning 'cloak', is simply a large cloth used to cover a coffin; they have a long tradition in the English church and were widely used in the medieval period for higher status burials. Since the re-interment the pall has been displayed in a glass case in the north aisle of the Cathedral; one side of the pall depicts figures from the King's lifetime shown in medieval garb and, in appearance, probably similar to the sort of embroidery that would have covered a royal coffin of that time. On the opposite side are nine figures in contemporary dress, portraits of individuals closely connected to the rediscovery and reburial of the King.³

The Pastel Drawing (2010) by Malcolm Buntrock on the wall just inside the north door depicts all the churches in the Blyth Valley Team: All Saints Blyford, St Andrew's Bramfield, St Mary's Chediston, St Mary's Halesworth, St Peter's Holton, St Margaret's Linstead, St Peter's Spexhall, St Peter's Thorington, St Peter's Walpole, St Peter's Wenhaston, St Andrew's Wissett.

Malcom Buntrok was born in Chelmsford in 1939, the son of George, a bus washer, and Henrietta. Malcom studied at St Martins School of Art, the London School of Printing & Graphic Arts and Wimbledon College of Art, and worked in advertising and graphic design. He moved to Suffolk and lived with his wife, Kathryn, in Haughley Green near Stowmarket, where, in 2014, he was curator of the Maxwell Chandley Gallery in nearby Haughley. He has produced a range of greetings cards and drew regularly for the *East Anglian Daily Times Saturday Sketchbook*.

"On the great canvas of time
We all create our own masterpiece.

Choreographing our steps across minutes and hours
Dancing over the days
Painting pictures over months and
Writing our stories on the years.
Singing our songs that echo across eons.

We are all a thread in the talent tapestry.
A snapshot in the cosmic, collective collage."
Michele Jennae

¹An idiom, meaning an overabundance of something, or too much of a good thing, it originated in 1738 as the translation by John Ozell of a French play, *L'Embaras des richesses*, by Léonor Jean Christine Soulas d'Allainval.

²See also: *A Kind of Madness (The Sculptures of Peter Eugene Ball)*, by Inga Gilbert and *Icons of The Invisible God (Selected Sculptures of Peter Eugene Ball)*, foreword by Pamela Tudor-Craig, introduction by Richard Davey.

³More details of the pall can be found at: <https://dottietales.wordpress.com/2015/05/17/a-funeral-pall-for-richard-iii/>

Jenny Janes



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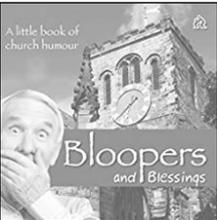
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**The Sign of the Fish is open Monday – Wednesday 9.30am – 1pm;
(Thursday closed); Friday 9.30am – 1pm**

Summer reading from Sign of the Fish

First a little levity (with apologies to our excellent editors and contributors)!



From *Bloopers and blessings*, on church notice sheets:

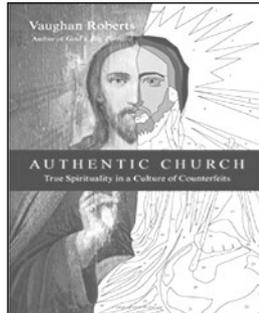
“Don’t be surprised to find mistakes on your church notice sheet. We print something for everyone and some people love finding mistakes”.

Not in Halesworth, of course!

Spelling errors and typos, malapropisms, innocent remarks from children... all very human, all raising a smile or a chuckle. You’ll find this with other gift books, ideal to cheer a dear friend with a birthday card, or to treat yourself on a rainy day.

As promised last month, here is August’s “Bag a Bargain” in Sign of the Fish:

Authentic Church: true spirituality in a culture of counterfeits, by Vaughan Roberts.



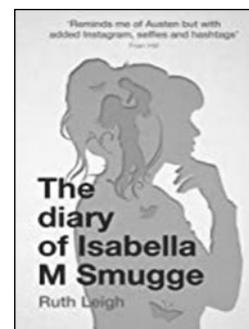
Christians are captivated by consumerism, seduced by fame, distracted by technology and overwhelmed by media, writes the author. Meanwhile many of us have become motivated to “do church” differently by our experience of worship during Covid19, but Church is more than varieties of Sunday worship. Perhaps our approach should be going back to basics, finding direction in St Paul’s prophetic letter 1 Corinthians; certainly the Corinthians were just as distracted by worldly, compromised lifestyles as we are, having a tendency to showy spiritual one-up-man-ship rather than displaying loving concern. A punchy read, and also a useful tool for anyone contemplating leading a home group study of 1 Corinthians.

I have recently read and enjoyed two new novels from Christian publishers, neither pious nor overtly serious, both ideal holiday reading.

bring – not least the horseman of the apocalypse who has set out quietly, with barely a jingle of harness, in a distance province of China . . .

The author wrote this in real time in the midst of the pandemic, this entertaining book captures the difficulties of 2020 with heart, humour and insight. Perfect for Lindchester fans, it’s also the ideal novel for anyone seeking comfort and a way of understanding all that has been happening. Though there are tears as well as laughter the narrative affirms that even in darkness grace is to be found.

**Acts and omissions, Unseen things above, Realms of glory.*



The diary of Isabella M Smugge, by Ruth Leigh

It would be easy to dismiss this as Christian chick-lit by the cover, but as another reviewer remarked “(it) reminds me of Austen but with added Instagram...” I thought Izzy was most like a modern *Emma*, making a very good living as an Instagram influencer but is endearingly self-unaware. She moves her family to... Suffolk!... for a

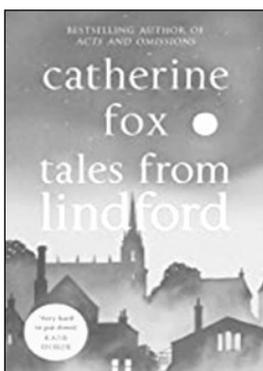
better life style and to gain herself a whole new set of followers, only things don’t go as envisaged, and her “perfect life” begins to unravel as she tries to integrate into her new environment (to the embarrassment of her son). But on the way she is rescued by the young vicar’s wife and begins to think there is something in this God thing. The author has realistically captured the mutual suspicion between the rural poor and the well-to-do incomers, and ends the book at a moment of crisis, so I am very glad to learn a sequel is on the way.

These two books are to be found in the Halesworth Bookshop, indeed the last time I popped in there was a tidy pile of *The diary of Isabella M Smugge* ready and waiting.

Stop press: The classic Lewis titles are back in stock.

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish



Tales from Lindford, by Catherine Fox
A must for all of us who enjoyed the *Lindford trilogy and I can’t do better than quote from the official blurb. January 2020. Freddie, Father Dominic, Jane and all the other residents of Lindfordshire are celebrating the New Year with parties and resolutions. None of them is aware of the trials and tribulations the coming months will



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Award winning hearing specialists relocate in Halesworth

Local award-winning hearing care specialists, The Hearing Care Centre are relocating to brand new premises in Halesworth this August.

The clinic which has been housed within Jeffrey's Opticians on Rectory Street, is moving its services across to The Pear Tree Centre, next to Cutlers Hill Surgery on Bungay Road.

The Pear Tree Centre is a newly-built facility, which provides fantastic healthcare, complementary therapies, counselling and support services within the town, and also benefits from free onsite parking.



Matthew Coward, Operations Manager of The Hearing Care Centre, was very pleased to confirm the news. "This relocation has been long in the making and we are delighted that it has finally happened. I'm sure all of our patients will be very pleased with our new surroundings and we can't wait to welcome them!"

To celebrate their move, the company is offering complimentary hearing assessments throughout August 2021, saving £30.

For further details or to book a complimentary hearing assessment call The Hearing Care Centre on 01502 488106 or visit www.hearingcarecentre.co.uk – quoting 'HW21'.



The Hearing Care Centre, which has won many top awards for the customer service it provides its patients, will continue to hold clinics in Halesworth every other Thursday, providing hearing assessments, fitting of the latest hearing aid technology, as well as specialist advice and support for those experiencing hearing loss.

FREE hearing tests in Halesworth



To celebrate the opening of our new clinic at the Pear Tree Centre we are offering FREE hearing tests in August.

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New book launches this Autumn to Provide Comfort In The Kitchen

A new book is being launched to help people rediscover the joy of cooking and baking after bereavement.

Cooking For One will feature dishes which are ideal to prepare for solo diners who have recently lost a loved one.

The book features a wide range of recipes featuring simple dishes for those who may not be used to finding their way around a kitchen. The recipes are wholesome and nutritious, but there are some decadent dishes too.

Cooking For One is the idea of Simon Beckett-Allen, who co-owns Rosedale Funeral Home which has bases around Norfolk and Suffolk. Simon was inspired to create the cookbook in memory of his late sister, who was a chef.

The proceeds of the book, which will be published in September, will support Cruse Bereavement Care, which is the largest charity of its type and supports over 50,000 people dealing with grief each year.

Simon wanted to draw on his own experiences to help others. He said: "I have always found cooking very therapeutic especially when I am on my own, and preparing food is a very pleasant pastime".

As well as a wide range of recipes to prepare and dishes to enjoy, there are also stories from the contributors who share their journeys and provide advice and comfort too.

"After a bereavement, people can lose the enthusiasm to cook for themselves, and I really hope Cooking for One will help with that".

The book features contributions from a range of people who have all lost a loved one including Norfolk-based actress Liza Goddard, writer and businessman Sir John Timpson CBE, and popular Norfolk chef Richard Hughes.

As well as highlighting the meals that are important to them, they also share poignant memories of their loved ones.

Simon said: "Cooking for One contains no platitudes about what a great healer time can be. It is a candid account of the raw pain and utter loneliness that grief can bring about. As well as containing delicious recipes, it aims to serve as a handbook designed to help navigate the personal pathway of grief."

The book goes on sale on September 16th, costs £20 and can be purchased through our website:

<http://www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk/>

and will be available from all our branches of Rosedale Funeral Home.





FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

Donations of food for the Foodbank can also be left at Woolnough's Funeral Service's 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.

There is also the main collection point at St Mary's Church, Steeple End, Halesworth

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 Volunteer Centre

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.

If anyone who is willing to host a box outside their home, please could you let

the Revd Jane Held know:

(07771 556391).



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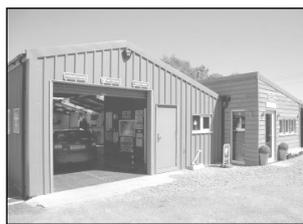
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