

# Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

September 2019

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## The North Porch of St Mary's Halesworth

This photograph of the St Mary's North porch was taken by Nick Berry of Bramfield. The summery welcome captured in the view through the open doors has attracted many visitors this year. It is good to know that this welcoming aspect will be maintained throughout the winter months, following the regeneration of the building - when glass doors will provide the same impression.

However, back to the porch itself and examination of historical fact, or church legend?

From Church records we learn that the porch was built in the early 15th Century as a memorial to the safe return of Sir William Argentine (1350 - 1419) from the Battle of Agincourt (1415 - St Crispin's Day). Imagination might lead to supposing that a very fit 65 year old knight was charging the enemy lines with the other lancers in the retinue of the Earl of Suffolk. Not very likely, there's need to examine the evidence.

From records kept at Agincourt itself and now on a database set up on the internet by Southampton University, we find that there was a William Agincourt at the Battle of Agincourt - but it was William Argentine, Esquire - his son. And what happened to him?\*

His father, *Sir* William, could well have been there also, if not as a fighting soldier. Biographical records tell us that he acted as 'Commissioner of Array' - recruiting men from their normal pursuits, and equipping them to fight on the battlefield. This is a role he may well have undertaken at Agincourt. Amongst the carvings on the arch of the Chantry Chapel (Now the Team/BVTimes office) and of necessity, since they are hidden behind the organ, now presented as photographs, is one of crossed short swords which may be a reference to similar missions of 'The Hundred Years War'.



Above: The North Porch in Summer mode.

Photo courtesy Nick Berry.

Left: Carving of crossed swords on Argentine chapel arch.

Photo courtesy Jason Busby.

\*All will be revealed in the Mediaeval production 'A Moment in Time'. For dramatic purpose, license is given to keep Sir William at the Halesworth Manor following St Crispin's Day, but for the integrity of our Church history, he'll need to take that journey to France at some point - just one more time!

'A Moment in Time; Halesworth, AD1415' is to be performed on Saturday 21st September, at 11.30am, in St Mary's Church Halesworth. Booking is required via The Cut Box Office (0300 3033211), but tickets are free of charge. All welcome. (There will be a dress rehearsal at 2.30pm on Sunday 15th September in the Church). **AW**

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**[www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk)**

## Team Calendar - September

Sun 1	11:00	Rosedale Walk of Remembrance, Beccles
Sun 1	15:00	MU Cream Tea, Spindleberry, Wenhaston
Tue 3	19:30	Wenhaston Flower Club, Church Room
Thu 5	14:00	Rosedale Bereavement Support Group, Angel Hotel, Halesworth
Fri 6	12:00	Pop in Parlour, St Peter's Holton
Sat 7	19:30	Autumn Supper, Holton Village Hall
Tue 10	10:00	Churchyard Working Party, St Mary's Halesworth
Wed 11	14:30	Halesworth Mother's Union (with Wenhaston)
Fri 13	14:30	Chediston & Linstead WI, Linstead Village Hall
Fri 13	19:00	Harvest Supper, Wissett
Sat 14		Suffolk Historic Churches "Ride and Stride"
Sat 14	11:00	Churches Together Prayer Gathering, URC, Halesworth
Sat 14/Sun 15		Flower Festival, St Mary's Halesworth
Sun 15	11:15	Harvest Festival Service/Lunch, St Mary's Halesworth
Tue 17	14:00	Art Society Lecture, St Edmund's Hall, Southwold
Tue 17	19:30	Halesworth WI, St Mary's Hall
Wed 18	14:45	"Fisherman's Friends", HdCF film at The Cut, Halesworth. £5 on the day. All welcome.
Fri 20	18:00	Young People's Film Night, Wenhaston Village Hall
Fri 20	19:00	Rosedale Charity Quiz, St Mary's Church Hall, Halesworth
Sat 21/Sun 22		Heritage Open Days, Halesworth
Sat 21	11:30	"A Moment In Time", St Mary's Halesworth
Sat 21	15:00	Explore 2! St Peter's Spexhall
Sun 22	11:15	Harvest Festival/Lunch, Spexhall
Sun 22	11:15	Church Tour, St Mary's Halesworth
Sun 22	14:30	Mediaeval Experience, St Mary's Halesworth
Thu 26	09:30	MU North Suffolk Area Morning, St Mary's Halesworth
Sat 28/Sun 29		10:00 St James Book Sale
Sun 29	11:15	Harvest Festival Service (with Wenhaston Methodist Church), St Peter's Wenhaston
Sun 29	11:30	Harvest Thanksgiving, St Mary's Chediston

## Team Worship - Better Together

### Sunday 1st September

10:00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth

### Sunday 8th September

18:30 Team Evensong at Blyford

### Sunday 29th September

10:00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield

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## Sunday Readings

<b>1 Sept, 11th Sunday after Trinity</b> Ecclesiasticus 10.12-18 Or Proverbs 25.6-7 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16 Luke 14.1,7-14	<b>22 Sept, 14th Sunday after Trinity</b> Amos 8.4-7 Psalm 113 1 Tim 2.1-7 Luke 16.1-13
<b>8 Sept, 12th Sunday after Trinity</b> Deuteronomy 30.15-end Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14.25-33	<b>29 Sept, 15th Sunday after Trinity</b> Amos 6.1a,4-7 Psalm 146 1 Tim 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-end
<b>15 Sept, 13th Sunday after Trinity</b> Exodus 32.7-14 Psalm 51.1-11 1 Tim 1.12-17 Luke 15.1-10	<b>6 Oct, 16th Sunday after Trinity</b> Habakkuk 1.1-4,2.1-4 Psalm 37.1-9 2 Tim 1.1-14 Luke 17.5-10

## Weekday Services & Related Events

### EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY

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

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

### EVERY THURSDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer (BCP) at Bramfield.

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

### PLEASE SEE PAGE 16 FOR CONTACT DETAILS

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

# Sunday Worship in the Blyth Valley in September

Year C TRACK 2	Date: 1st September Sunday: Proper 17 TEAM service  COLOUR: Green	Date: 8th September Sunday: Proper 18  COLOUR: White	Date: 15th September Sunday: Proper 19  COLOUR: Green	Date: 22nd September Sunday: Proper 20  COLOUR: Green	Date: 29th September Sunday: Proper 21 TEAM service  COLOUR: Green
BLYFORD ALL SAINTS	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	18.30 Team Evensong Vic	09.30 to Wenhaston	Services available across the Team	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
BRAMFIELD ST ANDREW	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11.15 Morning Worship and Reflection Linda/ Alison 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	11.15 Morning Prayer with baptism Jane	Services available across the Team	10.00 Team Harvest Eucharist 5th Sunday Series of Speakers no.1 C Edward, P tbc, D Jane
CHEDISTON ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Morning Worship Vic 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	09.30 To Village Worship at Linstead	11.15 Eucharist David	11.30 Harvest Service David Preacher Sally Fogden
HALESWORTH ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist C Vic, P Alison, D Margaret B	08.00 Eucharist (BCP) David 09.30 Patronal Eucharist Edward 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	11.15 Harvest Festival Edward	08.00 Eucharist (BCP) Jane 09.30 Parish Eucharist and Heritage Sunday, Jane	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
HOLTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11.15 Parish Eucharist with Baptism Bill 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	11.15 Iona Morning Worship Alison	11.15 Parish Eucharist Michael	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
LINSTEAD ST MARGARET	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Morning Prayer (BCP) Malcolm H 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	09.30 Village Service with Chediston, David	09.30 Eucharist David	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
SPEXHALL ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 to Eucharist at Wissett 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	11.15 to Iona Morning Worship	11.15 Harvest, Jane	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
THORINGTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Services available across the Team			10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
WENHASTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11.15 Morning Worship at Bramfield 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	09.30 Eucharist Jane	11.15 Pause for Thought with coffee Alison	11.15 Joint Harvest Service with Methodist's Louise Morrissey
WISSETT ST ANDREW	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Eucharist with Spexhall David 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	09.30 Morning Worship, Win	9.30 Breakfast Church, Win	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield 15.00 Deanery Evensong Rural Dean
HEVENINGHAM ST MARGARET	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Services available across the Team 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	Services available across the Team	09.30 Eucharist (BCP) Edward	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
HUNTINGFIELD ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Eucharist (BCP) Michael 18.30 Team Evensong at Blyford	Services available across the Team	Services available across the Team	10.00 Team Eucharist at Bramfield
HIGHFIELD				11.15 Eucharist	

## United Reformed Church Halesworth and Bramfield

Minister: The Revd Jon Sermon

SEPTEMBER 2019

<b>SUNDAY 1st</b>	10.30am	WELCOME PRAISE
	11.00am	Morning Communion ~ <b>The Revd Jon Sermon</b>
	6.30pm	Evening Service ~ <b>tba</b>
<b>TUESDAY 4th</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Elders' Meeting</b>
<b>SUNDAY 8th</b>	10.30am	WELCOME PRAISE
	11.00am	Morning Service ~ <b>Mr George Long</b>
	3.00pm	BRAMFIELD ~ <b>Minister Jon Sermon</b>
	6.30pm	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE at HURC</b>
<b>SUNDAY 15th</b>	10.30am	Recorded Welcome Praise (Minister Jon)
	11.00am	Morning Service ~ <b>Minister Jon Sermon</b>
	6.30pm	Evening Communion ~ <b>Minister Jon Sermon</b>
<b>SUNDAY 22nd</b>	11.00am	Morning Service ~ <b>The Revd Don Nichols</b>
	6.30pm	Evening Communion ~ <b>tba</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 25th</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>CHURCH MEETING</b>
<b>SUNDAY 29th</b>	11.00am	Morning Service ~ <b>Minister Jon Sermon</b>
		<b>Tea and Coffee</b>
	6.00pm	TFP ~ Tea
	6.30pm	TFP Service ~ <b>Minister Jon Sermon</b>

## Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Louise Morrissey

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

SEPTEMBER

1	Iris Baker
8	The Revd Robert Soanes
15	Rosemary Adams
22	The Revd Clive Sutcliffe HC
29	11.15am United Harvest at St Peter's, The Revd Louise Morrissey

Tuesday Meetings at 2.30pm

3	Fellowship
10	Bible Study
17	Fellowship
24	Bible Study

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

## St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

Sunday Mass at 9am  
Mass on Fridays at 10am



### News from Churches Together

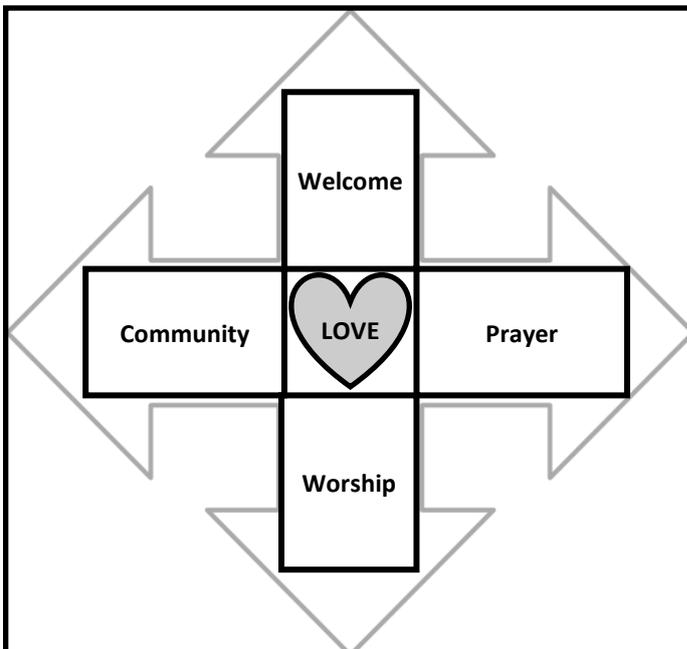
The recent ecumenical prayer gathering at St Mary's was a great encouragement. The call to pray – intentionally – for our churches of the Blyth Valley, our church leaders and our communities remains. I think it is a significant ongoing need. So these occasional prayer gatherings will continue, with the venues varying, confirming it is for us all. But I made a mistake in last month's *BVTimes*. I mentioned the date we've had, and 9th November, but forgot the one in September! So, your next opportunity to join this growing groundswell of praying together is:

**Saturday 14th September, 11am at the URC**

Blessings

*Jon*

The Revd Jon Sermon



# ONE CHURCH

The countdown has begun. Bishop Martin has accepted my resignation, and I shall retire on 1st May, 2020. That's eight months from this month, and will be just four months short of the twentieth anniversary of my induction as Team Rector of the Blyth Valley and its parishes. I'm going to use some of these pages, over the months, to reprise some of the things which I feel have been really important to teach over the years, as the Blyth Valley Team Ministry has grown and developed. Last month, I wrote of the need for the Church to be **INCLUSIVE**, radically accepting all conditions of women and men thus following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ. This month, I want to begin to write about the nature of the Church. I hope you won't find it too dry and turn the page! It's really important for us to get a grip on what the Church is, so that we can work out, under God, what it means for us, our worship and our outreach, in the 21st century.

St Ignatius of Antioch, a great father of the Church, began to formulate the **Four Marks of the Church** in the second century. The First Council of Constantinople (381) added these Four Marks to the Nicene Creed: **"We believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church"**.

The Church across the world (and in heaven) is fundamentally ONE. Christ is the Lord of all, and human made divisions do not stretch up to heaven. The Church has always had divisions. We only have to look at the argument between Saints Peter and Paul. In the earliest Christian communities, there were divisions between Jewish churches and Gentile churches for example. There were great arguments over circumcision versus non-circumcision and dietary requirements. Early Christian leaders did not always agree. In 1054, the Great Schism saw the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox churches effectively excommunicate one another over things such as "Should the Pope be in charge?" "Do we use leavened or unleavened bread at the Eucharist?" "Does the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father *and the Son* or just from the Father?".

The Protestant Reformation of the Sixteenth century in the West was, despite enormous upheaval, less drastic. In Europe, Martin Luther (1483 - 1546) lit a power keg when he questioned certain Roman Catholic beliefs and practices. At the times, the religion of the ruler had better be the religion of everyone under that

ruler's sway, so religious crisis also became political. There was much warfare in Europe, and over the years differences were exported across the world. Someone once reckoned that, after the split from Rome to the present day, around 5000 "churches" were created.

And yet most Christians still say, **"We believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church"**. How can we be one? For example, the Church of England broke from Rome, the Methodist Church broke from the Church of England, and the Salvation Army broke from Methodism. Since the Second World War, great efforts have been made to draw the churches together, some successful, some less so.

The Church of England has been described as "Catholic and Reformed" - "both and". In a sense, we have the best of both worlds. We maintain the historic holy orders of Bishops, Priests and Deacons from the early Church into which Jane, Claire, Alison and Linda have just been ordained. Although the Eucharist was, over the centuries, not always as central as it should have been, it has now regained its place at the very heart of the Church. The sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Reconciliation (Confession) Marriage and Anointing of the Sick are again widely seen as channels of God's love and grace which flood through the Church to infuse and inflame her children with that love.

In the Anglican Church, the core of the Christian Faith is maintained as God speaks afresh to each new generation. At the same time, God-given intellect probes and examines Scripture and Tradition that leads us to a deepening perception of the Truth of God. Fundamentalism is anathema to Anglicanism. We are free to explore, free to question, with honesty and integrity, and so come to sounder, firmer faith. We are part of the **ONE** Church. One of the responsibilities of the Church of England and Anglicanism may to hold these for churches without the same historic roots.

It is possible to be *less* part of the Church which is One, but God's grace abounds, and we cannot entertain for a moment that the ministries of those churches which do not have bishops, priests and deacons are any less valid. The Church of England stands for **ONE** Church across the world. So working tirelessly for Christian Unity is part of our calling as Anglicans. [Next time: *What does it mean to be HOLY Church?*].

*Edward*



## News from our Sister Churches

### ST EDMUND'S RC CHURCH, HALESWORTH

September, and the year is on the tum; there is a tang in the air, the nights begin earlier, with black velvet skies full of stars. We cling to the golden summer sunshine, wanting time to stand still - but time and tide wait for no man.

It has been a year of uncertainty, dominated by 'Brexit' - do we stay in the EU or do we leave it on October 31st as our new Prime Minister vows and declares? Every political party seems to have a different attitude, and whatever happens, will that mean that our nation fares better or worse? We don't know, and don't know who to trust. Other parts of the world have far worse troubles; there have been more signs that climate change is a reality, with extreme weather - floods, droughts and fierce wildfires; and worse than natural disasters is the wickedness of mankind where continuing warfare leads to famine and yet more suffering of the innocent. We can only stand helplessly by, unable to do anything to help.

'We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.' (Ephesians 6:12 & 13).

Turning to our own lives, the future is unknown and unknowable. The years go by, and we are all ageing; changes are looming, and we may have to prepare for a parting; some of us carry a burden of guilt for past sins. Has God forgotten us?

Away with such devil's whisperings! Are we not Christians, followers of Christ? 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8).

Dear friends, we must turn to a more spiritual lifestyle, listening to the Lord in prayer. 'He is merciful and gracious... as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.' (Remember that 'fear' in this context means 'full of awe and wonder'). This assurance from Psalm 103 is well worth reading in full, and meditating upon it.

Let me point you to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother too. We can picture her gentle, motherly concern for us and our world, our Lady of good counsel, her feet planted firmly on the serpent, that old enemy of our souls. May her prayers direct us towards her Son, our Saviour who hung upon the Cross for us, and whose love is forever.

*Margaret Holt*

## HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends

August has been a month of mission and mutual encouragement:

We have received encouraging, mission focused visits from representatives of Tools with Mission, and Leprosy Mission.

It has been great to be involved in taking a minibus load of children and parents to each day of the Southwold Beach Mission. Here is a 'snapshot' of the drama during the beach service.



And as I leave for a mission trip to Uganda – so am writing this well ahead of the deadline – I know that mission will be continuing, including the Holiday Bible Club "Pirates of the Galilean". I know that Jo Moreira, the Revd Don Nichols and a large team of adult and teenage helpers will have given an inspired week to all involved.

And it is great to be part of a church where, while I'm away working on mission and mutual encouragement with Ugandan brothers and sisters, a great team of elders and leaders will be doing mission here in many ways.

But our mission and indeed mutual encouragement also involves our strengthening ties with brothers and sisters from our sister churches here. August started with our ecumenical prayer gathering, at St Mary's. And the next one – intended for us to come together from all the churches of the Blyth Valley area, will be at the URC, Saturday 14th September. I look forward to seeing many of you.

Blessings

*Jon*



## A view from a curate with 'L' plates... different perspectives

A couple of weeks ago I did something which took me way out of my comfort zone: I attended a training session on the outdoor gym equipment on Wenhaston Playing Field. Always happier reading a book or newspaper than doing something athletic, the session took me back to school PE lessons, when no-one ever rushed to be my partner, and my attempts at exercise felt clumsy and ineffective. Yet as I struggled not to topple off the cross-trainer, I realised that I was getting a completely different view of village life. There was a match going on at the Bowls Club, Wenhaston Football Club were playing, supported by a loyal band of followers. Even the church looked different, viewed from a new angle. Activities and perspectives that I hadn't appreciated before.

My ordination training last year also involved stepping out of my comfort zone. In particular, I came across many Christians whose way of talking about their faith and preferred styles of worship were very different from mine. Rather than slipping into a judgemental response, I tried hard to open my mind and my heart to both the fundamental faith that united us and to the richness that diversity within the Church can bring to the whole. I might not feel comfortable with some worship styles but I appreciated how they helped others express their love of God, and were actually more attractive and accessible to new Christians than my preferred liturgy. There is a danger within the Church, as in society, that we "take sides", sticking with like-minded Christians so that we feel secure and our faith is unchallenged. My personal experience over the last twelve months has been that stepping into the unfamiliar and the uncomfortable has helped me explore and deepen my relationship with God and my fellow Christians. It is both humbling and encouraging to realise that another person's faith can reveal new aspects of God's loving purpose in each individual.

At a time when divisions in society are becoming even

more deeply entrenched, surely we as Christians are called to demonstrate an alternative way of engaging with each other. It could begin within our team, with the simple step of going to a service in another church and getting to know another congregation. It could involve talking to other people about our faith, or speaking openly about controversial issues and really listening to other people's views. Whatever we do, stepping away from the familiar, we can begin to learn the importance of respecting, understanding and, when necessary, challenging ourselves and others as we try our best to live out our Christian faith.

Alison Alder

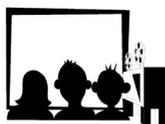
### EXPLORE! & EXPLORE 2!

**EXPLORE! Outdoor Church** Afterschool Club at Ilkeshall St Lawrence Primary School begins again in the Autumn Term. We hope to start an EXPLORE! Club at another primary school this school year. Volunteers to help us with EXPLORE! And EXPLORE 2! are still very much needed (thank you to the volunteers who have already replied to our appeal last month).

**EXPLORE 2!** Begins again in September – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 3pm at St Peter's, Spexhall – a service for children, designed by children and supported by adults. This month we are going to be hearing all about whales! Suitable for 6 months upwards, it's a very "light touch" service - a song, a story, and an activity plus a snack and a prayer... lots of crafty things... messy church-style but simpler with floor level play mats for the little ones! All are welcome.

Jane

## Young People's Film Night



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
6-8.30pm  
Wenhaston Village Hall



**FREE ADMISSION**  
(Donations welcome)



(Age 10 and upwards)

For more information contact: Alison Alder from BVTM  
alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk

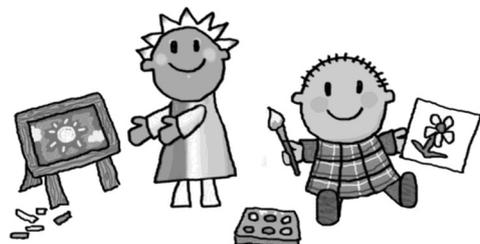
## EXPLORE 2!

Spexhall St Peter

21<sup>st</sup> September -3.00pm

A song, a story, an activity, a snack, a song and a prayer

**Church for children,  
designed by children,  
led by children,**



(adults allowed if helping – all children welcome)

## St Mary's, Halesworth Churchyard Working Party

We meet for a morning every month to tidy the churchyard and do a little easy gardening. There are a few of us, plus a small team from Mencap. We always need extra volunteers, please come and join us. We usually meet on the first or second Tuesday of each month from 10am – 12.30pm. For more info please contact Pedro [phone: 01986 873431].

The next times we will meet are:

**Tuesdays: 10th September, 8th October**

### What's going on in the Churchyard?

The churchyard is a sanctuary for wildlife. Because of changes in the countryside wildflower meadows are now rare in Suffolk and churchyards are some of the last remnants of this kind of habitat.

This churchyard is being looked after in a way that is sympathetic to conservation. Parts of the churchyard are left uncut to allow the plants to flower and seed. These areas are cut annually (or bi-annually) and the grass is cleared after cutting. The areas are marked with orange string.

Lots of material is collected and composted. When the process is complete, composted material is left in piles in front of the compost bins. Please help yourself to any of this material if you would like it for your garden - no need to ask!

## Suffolk Coastal Cottages

Local self-catering cottages for short breaks/weekly lets



Phone Trish Gower 01502 478078

bookings@suffolkcoastalcottages.co.uk

www.suffolkcoastalcottages.co.uk

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**One  
Life  
Suffolk**

## Walk and Worship

Remember that idea? Well it has not been forgotten! We have been training as walk leaders and hope to start in December 2019.

Supported by One Life Suffolk, the walks will be 40 minutes to an hour or so long, (no more than two miles) that involve a great walk, companionship, fun, laughter, good exercise as well as a very short reflection, prayer or other act of worship. They start and end at somewhere we can then have refreshments. All walks will be suitable for non-walkers and some will be wheelchair friendly too. Watch out for the advertisements and programme of walks.

## Confirmation

Want to explore confirmation?

Interested in taking the next step?

Been waiting a while to get confirmed?

We are planning to start confirmation classes in the late autumn.

An "Exploring Confirmation" session is going to take place on October 19th from 10.30am-11.30am. The venue is yet to be confirmed – so watch out for more information in the October edition of *BVTimes*.

If you want to find out a bit more about being confirmed come along (you can be any age and you don't have to commit to anything at all) – chocolate cake and coffee guaranteed! No need to book, but it helps to have an idea of numbers.

If you think you might come it would be great if you let Jane know on 01986 781760 or email: jane@janeheld.co.uk

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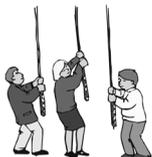
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## From the Ringing Chamber



Congratulations to our youngest member Rosie Rolph on ringing her first quarter peal at Wenhaston! Rosie has been working up to this for some time and was given the opportunity during a visit by Maggie, our previous Tower Captain, and by all accounts she rang very well throughout the forty minutes or so. A first quarter peal can be a daunting experience. Rosie had not previously rung changes for more than about fifteen minutes, but this performance needed extra reserves of concentration not previously resorted to. The next one will be easier! It was good that her three siblings were in the band and we look forward to a complete Rolph family quarter peal soon! Check out the details of the quarter (and a photograph!) on Bellboard at <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1295403>

On the subject of quarter peals, the NE District Quarter Peal Day saw four quarters rung, with eight Blyth Valley ringers participating. It was good to have Nicole available to share both the conducting and heavy bell loads. Keith rang two in a morning for the first time, taking his total to date to seven. Numbers aren't everything of course, but the more you ring the better you get, and full marks to Keith for taking the opportunities offered. He comes in for a lot of stick from me, but actually he is his own severest critic, and the truth is that

he has progressed really well since Hugh taught him to ring at Huntingfield when he first arrived from Yorkshire.

At a rather higher level I was very pleased for Nicole to have rung her first blows of Bristol Surprise Maximus at a special invitation-only practice on the 12 bells at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich. "Bristol Max" is, in my view, fearsomely difficult, and a method I have always struggled with. It marks the beginning of ringing's "Black Zone", the territory most people wouldn't begin to get associated with, so well done to Nicole on breaking through into the big time, and getting to meet some of East Anglia's best ringers in the process.

Sunday morning attendances have continued to be strong with no less than 14 ringers, all local band members, the other Sunday. We rang a sparkling two-course touch of Stedman Triples and some very well-struck call changes at the end. It did help having Nicole home from university and Nick, our Hertfordshire-based member, but both Sal and Pete were unavailable so we have strength in depth – not quite the squad of a Manchester United, but pretty good for Suffolk!

PG

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This month we join with our sister branch at Wenhaston for our monthly meeting on **Wednesday 11th September at 2.30pm**. Please contact me if you would like a lift. September is a very busy month in the parish and on the 28th we will be holding our usual autumn coffee morning in St Mary's Church Hall from 10am to approximately 11.30am. Please do come and join us for coffee and chat. Looking forward to October we will be hosting the Deanery Songs of Praise in St Mary's on Thursday 17th October at 2.30pm. All are welcome to attend whether members or not.

#### **WRAPPING GOD'S LOVE UP IN A SHAWL**

**(Families First – Summer 2019)**

"I didn't know what to say, so I took her a prayer shawl we'd made" said a lady who had just visited a member of her church congregation who had been widowed quite suddenly. Like so many of us in these situations she had struggled to find the right words, but the prayer shawl offered so much more than words.

The Shawl Ministry was started twenty one years ago in the United States and has since spread around the world to many churches – and Mothers' Union groups. Shawls are given to

those facing difficulties in their lives, such as illness, loneliness or bereavement. Sometimes they are given to a family after a funeral, but they can also be given as a celebration of the birth of a baby or to mark any other milestone in family life. Shawls are a tangible reminder that God's love is with us throughout all the joys and sorrows of life. The Shawl Ministry isn't just about the person who receives it, the knitters pray for those who will receive them as they knit.

**The following prayer is attached to shawls made by Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Manchester:-  
Please receive this shawl.**

**Wrap it around you.**

May this shawl be for you a mantle of security and wellbeing.

Sustaining and embracing you in good times  
and difficult ones.

May it bring you comfort from all that appears  
too much to bear.

From all that feels as if it might break you  
from all that threatens your peace of heart.

Rest within its softness

So that you will be cradled in hope, kept in joy,  
Graced with peace

And wrapped in God's love. Amen.

**A prayer for those who knit the shawls:-**

Heavenly Father, bless my hand and this wool.

Open my heart and my mind to your service.

Bless whoever may receive and wear this shawl  
that they may be uplifted, healed of all that ails  
and troubles them

and that their hearts may rejoice in your glory.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



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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.

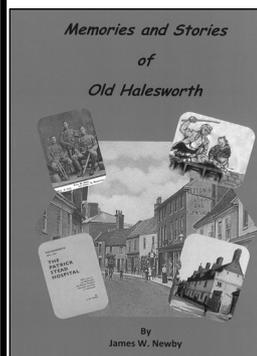
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## MU North Suffolk Area Morning 26th September 2019

This year it is turn of Halesworth Mothers' Union to host the annual North Suffolk Area Morning. I hope we will also have the support of Wenhaston and Southwold & Reydon members too. This will take place on Thursday 26th September and will begin at 10am with a short Eucharist in St Mary's Church. The Revd Jane Held will be the celebrant and Jason Busby hopes to play the organ for us. The collection will be for the 'MU Harvest Appeal.' Branch banners will be presented at the beginning of the service.

We will move to the Church Hall about 10.45am for coffee and a chance to browse the stalls - cakes and produce; bric-a-brac; MUE stall with greetings cards, gifts, diaries, calendars and Christmas cards! There will also be a raffle.

The main speaker will be Julia Hancock from the Selig (Suffolk) Trust. Selig runs the 'Ipswich Winter Night Shelter' and also 'Hope into Action'. Linda Ginn, our Diocesan President, will also be a speaker and will lead Middy Prayers. The morning will end with a Bring and Share Lunch. This morning is not just for MU members from the branches in the northern part of the Diocese, but is open to anyone, man or woman, to come and find out about the 'Ipswich Winter Night Shelter' and 'Hope in Action'. You will be most welcome. It promises to be an interesting, informative and enjoyable morning. We aim to finish about 1.30pm. I hope we shall be able to have the use of the Catholic Church car park opposite the hall. If you would like any more information do ask me, Win Sutton, Margaret Goldstone or Margaret Bloomfield.

### Mary Sumner Day - 9th August

This morning at Friday Morning Prayer at St Peter's Holton,

we remembered Mary Sumner at the beginning of the service. Jill Hewlett read the following from the book 'Exciting Holiness':

'Mary Elizabeth Sumner (nee Heywood) was born in 1828 at Swinton. In 1848 she married a young curate, George Henry Sumner, nephew of Archbishop Sumner, and who himself became Bishop of Guildford in 1888. A mother of three children, Mary called a meeting in 1876 at which the Mothers' Union was founded, providing a forum in which to unite mothers of all classes in the aim of bringing up children in the Christian faith. Baptism and parental example were its two basic principles. At first a parochial organisation, it grew steadily into an international concern, encouraging the ideal of a Christian home. Mary died on this day in 1921.'

I am surprised there is no mention in this account of Mary Sumner's life at Old Alresford Rectory in Winchester Diocese, where she and her husband were living in 1876.

At 11am, there was a Eucharist celebrating Mary Sumner at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds for any members in the Diocese to attend. This has taken place for several years since there has been an MU branch at our Cathedral. I hope it was well attended by members who live rather closer than we do.

#### Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

'All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.'

Written in 1876 by Mothers' Union founder, Mary Sumner.

Janet Walkey

Waveney & Blyth Deanery MU Leader

01986 872594

janetwalkey@hotmail.com

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- There will be an opportunity to sign a Book of Remembrance and light a candle in memory of a loved one in the Chapel of Rest at Rosedale Funeral Home, Beccles
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**Pop in and see Faith for more information and to register:**  
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Call her on **01986 875588** or email her at [halesworth@rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk](mailto:halesworth@rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk)




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# WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

## THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

The 2019 Season of Lectures continues on the following Tuesday:

Sept 17th: QUEEN VICTORIA and PRINCE ALBERT.

Patrons of the Arts and Art Collectors. Lecturer: Oliver Everett.

Oct 8th: From magic lanterns to Metro Goldwyn Mayer. The birth of the Silver Screen and the artists it inspired. Lecturer: Geri Parlbly.

Lectures commence at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre, (St Edmund's Hall), Southwold.

Visitors and Members' guests welcome. Small donation appreciated.

## Special Film Matinee of "Fisherman's Friends"



at THE CUT, Halesworth  
2.45 for 3pm on Wednesday  
18th September 2019

**All Welcome**

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

### North Suffolk Area Morning

Thursday 26th September

9.30am - 1.30pm

St Mary's Church, Halesworth



Selig Suffolk  
Empowering God's people to serve



### Eucharist in Church

Followed by refreshments and meeting in the Hall

Speakers: Julia Hancock from Selig and Linda Ginn, Diocesan President

Bring and Buy · Cakes & Produce Raffle · MUe · Bring & Share Lunch

Open to all

The Blyth Valley Team Ministry

ST PETER'S CHURCH, HOLTON  
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Friday 6th September

12noon to 1.30pm

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All welcome



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## FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019



Poems or Psalms

Flower arrangements by local groups

Refreshments available

Proceeds for the Regeneration of St Mary's Church.

# Charity QUIZ

**RAFFLE**  
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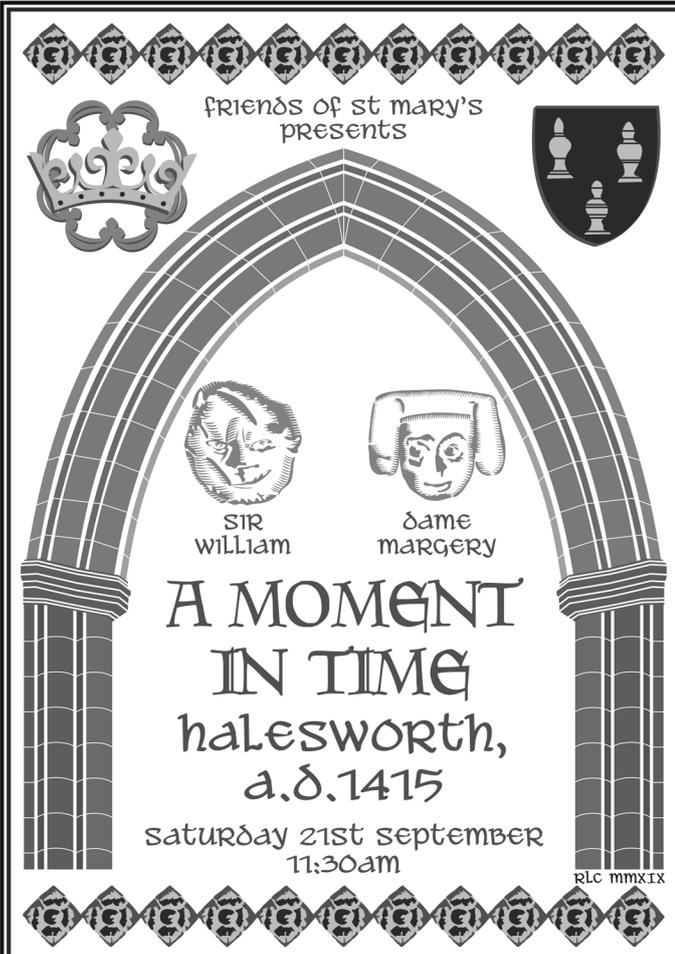
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# Heritage Open Days Programme at St Mary's, Halesworth



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presents





SIR  
WILLIAM



Dame  
MARGERY

**A MOMENT  
IN TIME**  
halesworth,  
a.d.1415

saturday 21st september  
11:30am

RLC mmmxx

## Saturday 21st September:

**9.30am-11am Bellingring:** If you would like a taster of bellingring, or wish to renew an earlier skill, come along to the try out session on Saturday morning. *Please note this is not a suitable activity for children under 10.*

**11.30am-12.15pm (approx): A MOMENT IN TIME; HALESWORTH, AD1415.** This heritage event, will be costumed and dramatised to reveal historical detail leading to the end of the Argentine Dynasty. Bellingring, music, dance and chanting will enhance the enactment. Visitors may wish to participate. *Please note:* The production will be filmed for future educational and fundraising purposes. Since the drama will be presented 'in the round' there may be incidental inclusion of audience. Suitable for children eight years and above. **Please be seated by 11.25am.** Limited unreserved seating available. **FREE ENTRY, but booking required please via 'The Cut' booking office: 0300 3033 211.**

**2.30pm-4.30pm: The Mediaeval Experience:** Activities for all ages to include, costumed tour, dressing up, dancing, designing of coat of arms, making of lavender bags, mediaeval music. **No booking required.**

## Sunday 22nd September:

**9.30am-10.30am: Parish Eucharist.** All welcome.

**11.15am-12.15pm: Church Tour.** No booking required.

**2.30pm-4.30pm: Mediaeval Experience.** No booking required.

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# HALESWORTH FLINGS OPEN ITS DOORS

For one weekend, 21st & 22nd September, Halesworth will be opening its heritage doors to residents and visitors alike with an invitation to explore some of its lesser known corners.

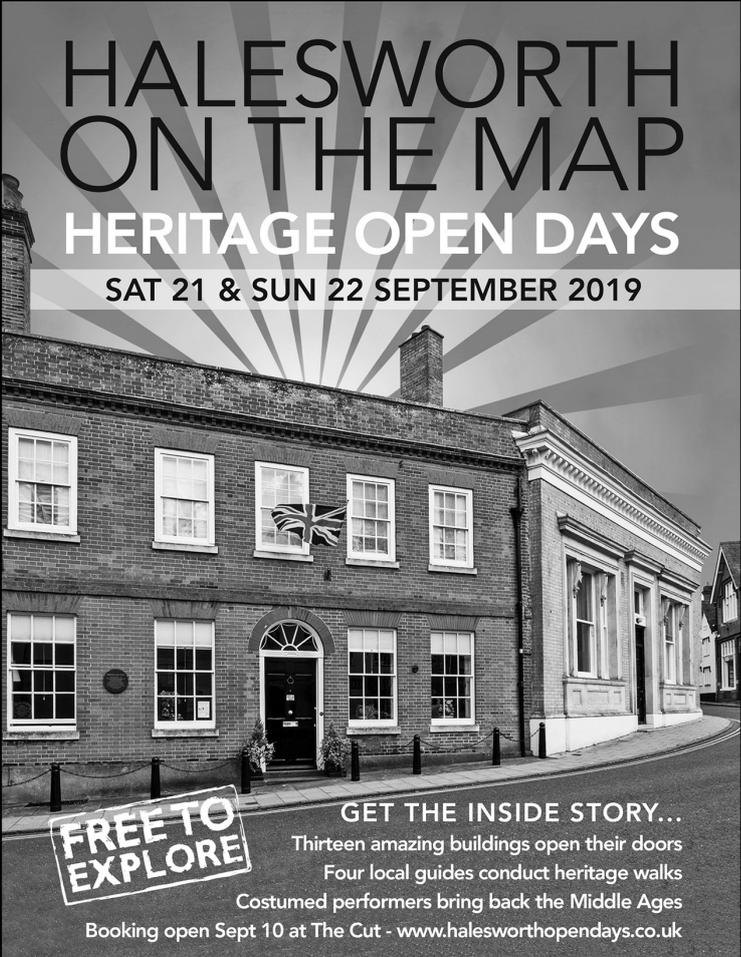
This will be the third time Halesworth has taken part in the national Heritage Open Days Scheme co-ordinated by the National Trust. With the theme 'Halesworth on the Map' the organisers this year aim to make sure the town lives up to its reputation as a place worth exploring.

Eight Halesworth historic houses and sites will be open for pre-booked tours, giving a rare chance to see inside some of the town's most significant buildings. Three houses – Gothic House, the Old Rectory and the Black Eagle have features dating back well over 500 years, while Bank House (opened for the first time), Hooker House and Chapel House are Georgian at heart and Magnolia House and Wellington Court (the site of a notorious murder) date from Victoria's reign. Between them, their former residents include two Directors of Kew Gardens (William and Joseph Hooker), a famous woman prison reformer (Priscilla Buxton), an archbishop, an actress and an MP.

A particular feature of this weekend will be a series of walks, each led by a local expert. There will be a chance to explore the Millennium Green and its surprising industrial past, including its links to Halesworth's own canal, the Blyth Navigation, and the much-loved Southwold Railway. Still exploring the world of work, there will be tours of the last remains of what was once the town's major industry, brewing and malting. The malting theme continues on Sunday with a tour of the Cut Arts Centre, itself once a state-of-the art Victorian maltings, spotting its original features and viewing the 'Malt Experience'. Halesworth's Heritage Trees will be the subject of a fascinating new trail highlighting 'the oldest and most spectacular trees of our town', while 'Hidden Halesworth' will look at Halesworth's 'little known stories and curious facts'.

A highpoint of the weekend will be the premiere in St Mary's Church on Saturday morning of 'A Moment in Time: Halesworth AD1415', a play centring on the lives of the Argentein family, Halesworth's mediaeval Lords of the Manor. With dance, music and chanting, the church, now able to show off its new, open and more flexible space, will be filled with the spirit of the middle ages. For music lovers, the recently formed Cut Choir will be giving a concert of songs on the Sunday afternoon, including one specially composed for the occasion on a Suffolk theme.

It's going to be a hands-on weekend too – for parents and children alike. At the church, there will be two Mediaeval Experience afternoon sessions where you can try your hand at bell-ringing, dress up and join a costumed tour or have a go at making lavender bags or a coat of arms. At Halesworth and District Museum, the kids can try brass-rubbing or handling fossils while the adults take a tour of the historic features of Halesworth Railway Station or view the special display about the Blyth Navigation. At the Cut there will be



**HALESWORTH  
ON THE MAP  
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**  
SAT 21 & SUN 22 SEPTEMBER 2019

**FREE TO EXPLORE**

**GET THE INSIDE STORY...**  
Thirteen amazing buildings open their doors  
Four local guides conduct heritage walks  
Costumed performers bring back the Middle Ages  
Booking open Sept 10 at The Cut - [www.halesworthopendays.co.uk](http://www.halesworthopendays.co.uk)

Suffolk County Council    HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL    H-BVP Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership    25 YEARS heritage open days

'craftivism' sessions where you can create 'something small and beautiful' while at the Library, staff from the Lowestoft Record Office will be bringing along a selection of historical maps to mark this year's special theme. You'll be able to trace how the town developed and perhaps look to see what was on the site of your house a century or more ago. Staff will also be there to help you get started on your family history or to help you overcome those irritating blockages where you 'can't get back any further'. At Steeple End Gallery, housed in the town's ancient almshouses, in addition to the usual fine displays of modern painting and sculpture, there will a special display on the history of the building.

All the events and tours are free of charge, but some have limited numbers and require booking at The Cut. To view timings and find out about booking arrangements, pick up a programme from local Tourist Information Points.

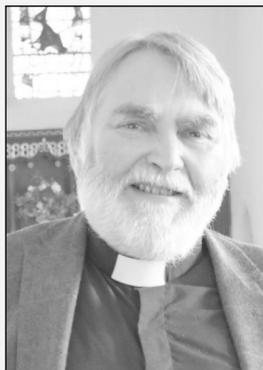
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Mob: 07958 191975  
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(off duty Monday)



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*Assistant Curate*

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Mob: 07771 556391  
E: jane@janeheld.co.uk  
(off duty Thursday  
& Friday)



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*Assistant Curate*

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Wenhaston, IP19 9HD  
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Mob: 07584 416277  
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hotmail.co.uk  
(off duty Monday  
& Tuesday)



**The Revd  
Linda Berry**  
*Assistant Curate*

Old Post Office,  
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Huntingfield, IP19 0PU  
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(off duty Thursday  
& Friday)

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**The Revd Pam Bayliss** *Honorary Associate Minister*  
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Email: revbayliss@btinternet.com

**Diana Gardiner:** *Reader, also Chaplain at HMP and YO1*  
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**Win Sutton:** *Reader*  
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**Veronica Downing:** *Reader in training*  
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*If telephoning, please always leave a message,  
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(Malcolm Walkey is currently on sabbatical)

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**Jason Busby** - *Organist - Halesworth, Holton and Team*  
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**Geoffrey Kiddy:** *Lay Chair of Team Council*  
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Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Graeme Williams	01986 875342
Halesworth	Jason Busby	01986 873336
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett	01986 875913
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Roger Wilkinson Malcolm Heath	01986 785167 01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods Janet Sochon	01986 781256 01986 781151
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478267
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

## HALESWORTH LIONS ROAR – but...

Halesworth Lions were formed forty plus years ago, and during that time has become a well known provider of charitable help in the Halesworth area, as well as helping with National and International projects, like tsunamis, floods, water aid etc.

We are the first call for Social Services for help and/or funding for difficult cases in the local area.

Membership has varied between 20 and 40 members over the years. A membership of able, willing people of either sex, and any age enables the Club to meet its obligations and have the manpower to organise and run local events. These provide the monies to fund our charitable works as well as giving entertainment to the local area. A healthy membership enables clubs to organise various projects, ie diabetic screening, hearing tests etc.

At this time Halesworth Lions membership is well below 20 men and women, still working hard to help charitable causes and cases locally. However, some of our members are well over 70, all at present well and hearty, we are finding it harder to provide the service for which we have become known.

This is now an opportunity for you to consider joining this public serving organisation in the Halesworth area. All you need is the desire to help those less fortunate than yourself locally, nationally and Internationally.

We try to raise monies whilst enjoying ourselves, with a good family atmosphere, couples would be most welcome, there is

a small cash amount to pay annually, but, if this is a real problem help can be provided.

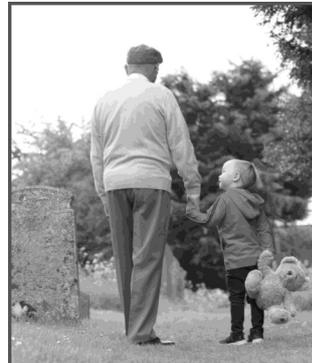
To keep Halesworth Lions running supporting the area we simply need VOLUNTEERS who want to help!

So all of you out there – how about it?

Contact Terry on 0781 7023291 for more information. **WM**

# SAMARITANS

Commencing on  
**Wednesday 18th September**  
there will be a Samaritans “drop-in”  
at St Mary’s Church, Halesworth  
from 10am - 12noon.  
*The “drop-in” will be held on the  
third Wednesday each month*



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### HALESWORTH CO-OP FUNERALCARE inc WOOLNOUGH FUNERAL SERVICE

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## ECUMENICAL CLERGY

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## #Seeing it differently at Norwich Cathedral, 13th August, 2019

"I was there yesterday and it was amazing to see people interacting with the building and people on so many levels. It was Godly play at its best, engaging people at whatever their entry level, and leaving a memory of positive engagement with sacred space."

When I posted that remark on *Facebook*, I received several replies from people who did not see things as I had, questioning how this event had been allowed to happen and how it could be expected to 'convert people to Christianity'. I felt that they were missing the point. Jesus did not ask those he encountered to sign a contract, or make a statement of faith before he engaged with, healed or forgave them; he met and accepted them where they were and allowed them to receive, his ministry, or not.

In this spirit, I replied: "I believe that's exactly what was happening at whatever level those coming to see/take part were ready to engage: there were many, lovely volunteers available to talk & share the Good News, the art work of windows, ceiling carvings, written explanations and participatory activities offering different, inventive means of encounter. The Bible Box was a joy and a revelation to me, familiar with the scriptures, because I encountered them in a new and different way. I believe God accepts us where we are and bids us join him on a journey of faith & growing knowledge. This (event) has offered a differently, viable way to bring people of all ages, into the space where the 'conversation' begins. It may take days, months or years to come to fruition, to begin, or not."

At least one person thought they might go and see for themselves, rather than criticise from a distance- for which I gave a whoop of joy! Of course I rode the Helter Skelter while I was there too; It was my way of celebrating my faraway son's 30th birthday, and I loved walking through the space with the ethereal sounds of choral evensong, afterward: especially because it was an interrupted, practice version (like so much of my own Christian journey). Before I left, I brought all of my sense of joy and wonder into a thankful and praise-filled walking of the cloister labyrinth, celebrating the God-given gift of my son James' first 30 years; then having supper with my younger son, Alistair before the wonders of *Facetime* meaning we could meet face to face in celebration and conversation. Such a happy memory to treasure.

O God, you see us differently

And offer the world a different way.

You offer forgiveness where we find judgement,

Acceptance where we experience rejection.

Love where we see hate.

Help me to see differently, so I may find the forgiveness, acceptance and love that comes from walking by the side of Jesus.

The Revd Judy Miller,  
Associate Priest Sole Bay Team



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## Halesworth Foodbank

Over the summer we have seen a big increase in demand for food. This has meant our stocks in the warehouse have been reduced so much that we have not had enough of some products to go round. So any donations are very gratefully received.

This month has also seen the opening of the **Waveney Hygiene Bank** which works in conjunction with the foodbank. The Hygiene Bank supplies us with toiletries which is a great help. The Hygiene Bank is looking to supplying schools and other youth organisations locally with needs especially sanitary products, which eases demand on us too. Donation points for food and hygiene products are the usual ones, plus Tesco Stores.

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

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

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

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

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

**St Mary's Church; St Edmund's Church;  
United Reformed Church;**

**Wenhaston Methodist Church; Wenhaston Post Office;  
Wenhaston St Peter's; Holton St Peter's;  
Spexhall St Peter's; Wissett St Andrew's;**

**Rosedale Funeral Directors; Woolnough Funeral Directors;  
Hideout Café; or The Hub, Huntingfield.**

Looking ahead to Christmas! During October/November we will again be collecting small toys and Christmas items to give out in our Christmas hampers. The deadline will be end of November. If you wish to start thinking about this now (!) then the **collection points for Christmas items will be in our local churches.**

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

**Pam Bayliss**

**Organiser for Halesworth and Beccles Foodbanks.**

## Blyth Valley Times

is published monthly by the  
Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

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

**PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for ALL copy  
for the next issue is midday on  
Saturday 14th September  
But the sooner the better please!  
Publishing date: Thursday 26th September**

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**Josef Seibel, Skechers, Cotswold.**

# News from Town & Villages

## Bramfield

### Correspondent June Brereton

[www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud](http://www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud)

What a lucky decision it was to have the Fete on August 11th! The wind had dropped! Most other dates that had been considered the weather had been unseasonably hot or wet. We have been fortunate in all our events this year in chancing on lovely days.

We followed our old routine – nothing modern or new, but many who came remarked on how refreshing it was to come to a relaxed “old fashioned” garden fete. Bowling, bean bag game, Splat the Rat, marble game etc. Bric-a-brac, books, plants (especially fresh produce) cake stall, tombola and draw all did good business. And then there were the teas - who can resist scones with jam and cream and delicious home-made cakes? A total of £716 was raised for church funds. A big THANK YOU to all who helped make it such an enjoyable afternoon.

### Crauford Stopher

Born in Badingham, Crauford was well

known in Bramfield as landlord of The Bell Public House. He died recently and his funeral was held in Badingham church attended by a great number of his friends and family. Crauford was very active locally being Chairman of Bramfield Village Hall. He manned all the bars for functions at the Village Hall in the days when Country and Western dances were held in the village regularly.

### Ride and Stride

#### Saturday 14th September

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust invite you to get to know the local churches by cycling or walking around the locality and supporting the local churches by getting sponsors to back your efforts to see how many churches you can do in a day.

Local organiser Marie Collins 01986 784534.

#### Village Hall Draw for August

1st	Lindsey Hammond	£12
2nd	Mrs M Foster	£6
3rd	L & C Trussler	£5

### Opening and Closing Church for week beginning Monday

Sept 2nd	M Collins
Sept 9th	B Langley
Sept 16th	L Buckingham
Sept 23rd	A & J Rowe
Sept 30th	L Trussler

### Church Cleaning

#### for week beginning Monday

Sept 2nd	V & E Page
Sept 9th	C Chenery
Sept 16th	J Alexander & J Barham
Sept 23rd	L Buckingham & L Trussler
Sept 30th	D Bond & I Newton

### Altar Flowers for Sundays

Sept 1st & 8th	D Munnings
Sept 15th & 22nd	J Foster
Sept 29th	

## Chediston

### Correspondent

**Sally Aldous 01986 873363**

[www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk)

### Chediston Bike Ride

*Graeme Williams writes:*

Saturday 13th July saw the inaugural Chediston Bike Ride. Organised by John and Kath de Wale, 13 intrepid cyclists set off from Chediston Green. The first stage was from The Green, by the most direct route possible to the nearest open hostelry – as it turned out St Peter's Brewery. After taking on appropriate amounts of liquid, some of it to rehydrate, the second stage was to the next closest hostelry, The Rumburgh Buck, where most enjoyed a civilised lunch break (and a bit more 'rehydration'). There we were met by our support vehicles (those who couldn't be bothered to cycle!). Overall, it was a splendid community event which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Perhaps the enduring, if slightly disturbing sight, was that of a cross-dressed Gerry Slee, who seemed to have ambitions to be Ethel. If you are brave enough, have a look on the Chediston and Linstead website!

Perhaps the only disappointment on the day was the failure of Geraint Thomas to make an appearance – he had some other bike ride to participate in – oh well, perhaps next year.

Chediston St Mary's hosted its annual Team Evensong on 14th July, with



Chediston cycle ride.



Bramfield fete.

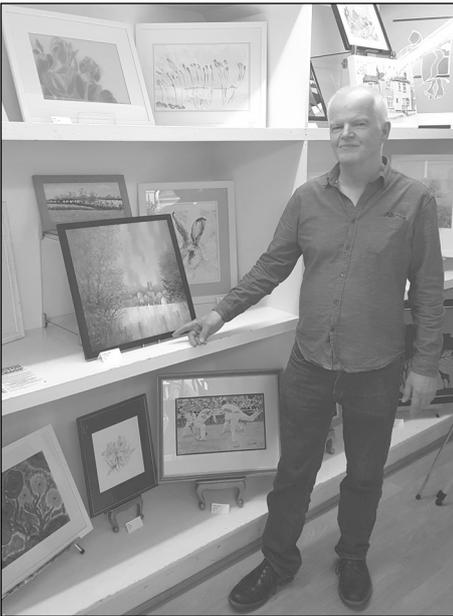
Team choir in fine voice. It was also great to see Team Rector Edward Rennard back in the saddle!

On 16th July, a beautiful sunny Tuesday morning, Chediston and Linstead WI supported a garden party at the home of Mrs Heather Vincent. With stalls, raffles and cream teas, a fabulous sum in excess of £350 was raised in aid of the East Anglia Air Ambulance. Thanks to all who gave so generously.

On Thursday 18th July members of Chediston and Linstead WI were treated to a comedic performance of 'The End of the Line', at Southwold Summer Theatre. The drama was preceded by tea and cakes at Cafe 51.

### Chediston Art Group Annual Exhibition

Chediston Art Group recently held its annual art exhibition in the iChameleon pop up shop. For one week during July the twenty members of the group displayed a variety of work in a wide



range of styles, techniques and materials. The group meets every Wednesday morning at The House on the Hill, just off the B1123, under the leadership of Chediston artist, John Dawkins. A preview party was held on Thursday evening, 18th July, to the beginning of what was to be a very successful show, with many visitors and resultant sales. Photograph shows organiser John Dawkins with one of his compositions.

### Diary Date

Keep September 1st clear in your diaries for a village event presently being planned. We hope to have a

barbecue and some music. Look out for updates and further details.

### The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride (and Stride) takes place on Saturday 14th September. Monies raised are divided equally between a nominated church and the SHCT and assist in maintaining these historic buildings. Volunteers are needed to sit in church to welcome visitors, I also have sponsor forms (Sally 873363).

### Chediston Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday 29th September

This will take place at St Mary's at 11.30am when we will welcome visiting preacher Canon Sally Fogden. The service will be followed by the traditional, and excellent, harvest lunch in the Church Schoolroom.

Offers of help to decorate the church on the Friday and Saturday (27th/28th) would be much appreciated.

By the time you read the *BVTimes*, there will have been two baptisms at St Mary's.

## Halesworth

### Correspondent Jason Busby 01986 873336

It has been a quiet month in St Mary's, with our usual pattern of weekday and Sunday worship, so nothing really to report/review this month. September sees two BIG events in the life of St Mary's, firstly, Harvest. Please join us on Sunday 15th, 11.15am, for our Harvest Festival Service followed by Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall (EVERYONE IS WELCOME to the lunch. No charge, donations welcome, please sign up in church asap).

A blessing for Harvest: God the Father, who created the world, give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

**Amen.** God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.** God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

The following week sees the return of the Heritage Open Weekend and a Medieval Production taking place in Church (see page 14 for full details).

In September the PCC meet on Tuesday 10th, 7pm, in the Church Hall. September also see a fifth Sunday 29th, join us at 10am St Andrew's

Bramfield for a TEAM HARVEST Eucharist.

So now I wish to share some thoughts on two very different projects which have caught my eye this past month. 'SEEING IT DIFFERENTLY' – As you know we have been looking at how we can use St Mary's, the building, for the community. I strongly believe that a house of God can and should be used however our imaginations allow us to. Take two of our finest Cathedrals in this land. Norwich and Rochester. The Bishop of Lynn is to address the congregation at Norwich Cathedral from the top of a 50ft helter skelter, yes you read that correctly. In August a 50ft traditional helter skelter was installed, aiming to encourage people to experience the Cathedral in new ways and to raise much needed funds for some urgent repairs. Writing in a blog post on the Cathedral's website, the Revd Canon Bryant said: "I get why for some the image of a giant helter skelter sitting in this great nave feels slightly shocking. It does provoke and it begs the question, what is this space for? The walls of this great building have seen many things through their 900 years and I suspect will take this latest arrival in their stride. But climbing 50ft above the nave floor will help us see this space differently, it will give us a new perspective. It is precisely because it is not what we usually do that it can speak to us, challenge us and invite us to see the space differently and to see ourselves and one another differently, even God differently". Sadly the project has come under heavy criticism. As, too, has the crazy golf course filling the nave in Rochester Cathedral. We all know we can worship to our Lord where and whenever we wish to. But these HUGE buildings need nurturing, restoring,



maintaining, regenerating, and in the current climate and uncertain times surely a bit of imagination, enthusiasm, and simply achieving something different wouldn't hurt! I'm taking Sophie and Emilia to the Cathedral to #seeingitdifferently and we can't wait to explore God's heavenly Kingdom from the top of the helter skelter.

### Halesworth WI

Halesworth WI are having a busy few months. In June there was a mystery outing. The first stop was at Stonham Barns for lunch, followed by an enjoyable afternoon at Helmingham Hall gardens. Members wished they had had more time to take in the gardens with all their glorious plants.

In July there was a WI group outing to Wimpole Estate. The Hall was spectacular with its 18th Century interior. There was so much to see, the richly decorated rooms, stone arches and vaults, and an austere bath house. There was a library and a Baroque Chapel. The gardens were full of exotic and unusual plants. There was an 18th Century walled garden and a home farm. Certainly, plenty to keep us busy and interested! A great day out!

July's speaker Iris Van-Zon was from Clinks Care Farm. Iris explained Clinks Care Farm is a 143-acre country farm that she runs with her husband. They are supported by paid staff, volunteers and local farmers. The farm offers opportunities, for people of all ages with learning difficulties and mental health problems, to work with farm animals. They also can learn farming skills and ways to look after the environment. This helps to give them a sense of achievement and develop social skills. Many also find working with the animals very therapeutic.

Clinks Care Farm is a social enterprise and any money raised goes back into the farm.

The competition for the Cutest Animal

photograph was won by Diane Foster with Pat Yates coming second. **PY**

## Holton

Correspondent

Denise Beale

dkbeale@btinternet.com

### HOLTON FLOWER FESTIVAL

Holton Church was once more a joy to behold when the many talented flower arrangers had finished on Friday 26th July. Our theme this year was 'A Special Day in my Life' and what a varied selection we had.

The photographs below (courtesy of Tom Meechan), show some of the arrangements.

We must say a big thank you to Betty and all the stewards for welcoming visitors to our lovely church, Chris and his team for the raffle, Sue who manned the bric-a-brac, Dawn and helpers on the tombola and the many cake makers who kept the refreshments well supplied. I would also like to thank Florence for her perseverance with her machine which meant we had music drifting around the church.

We were very pleased to welcome the ukulele group once more to entertain us on the Sunday afternoon.

Our Festival closed with a Songs of Praise as we sang hymns chosen by members of the congregation. We finished with 'One more step along the road I go', which was fitting as we hope to do it all again next year. The amazing thing is that while we were having fun we raised over £1130, so a big thank you to all. **Dot and Helen** I wrote a song again! So here we go:

#### Flower Festival Song 2019

*To the tune There is a green hill.*

There's one weekend comes round  
each year,

when we get together once more,  
to create our flower festival  
from the lights right to the floor.  
The refreshments are always popular  
with scones, coffee, cake and tea,  
but the flowers are the centre piece  
the visitors come to see.  
We've been on a journey around  
the world,  
with elephants, Prince Charming  
and bears,  
there are weddings, Ordination  
and babies too,  
happening over many years.

Lots of other days are special too,  
from moving house to passing a test,  
I certainly cannot mention them all,  
look in the programme to see the rest.

There are memories and moments  
in our life,  
bring a smile to everyone's face,  
and we really enjoyed sharing them,  
a special time in a special place.

So once again a big THANK YOU goes to  
all who've helped in anyway.

We hope to see you here next year,  
this has definitely been a  
SPECIAL DAY.

By Dottie Booley

### HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL TOTE

The first draw of the new Tote year took place on July 18th during the course of the regular Bingo session at the Hall. Winners were as follows: 1st, No 104, Pauline and Maurice Self £25; 2nd, No 47, Mary Curtis £10; 3rd, No 99, Simon and Maggie Larby £5; 4th, No 88, Hilary Garner £5.

August winners: 1st, No 126, Pam Francis £25; 2nd, No 66, Lyn Rogers £10; 3rd, No 91, Dennis Bale £5; 4th, No 114, Cathy Judd, £5.

Draws normally take place on the first Bingo Thursday of the month.

We have new players this year, and



welcome back many regular ones. It's not too late to join in, it's just £1 a month - in advance per annum - to join our winning Tote. Just ring Wendy on 01986 872590 – who has taken over running the Tote.

Helen Fensum has run the Tote for many years and has decided to take a well earned rest . Thank you Helen for handing out loads of cash over the years to those super supporters of our Village Hall. **WM**

## Linstead

Correspondent

**Malcolm Heath 01986 785289**

[www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk)

COMPOSING THE Linstead LETTER for September, with August still in single figures and a goodly portion of Summer still to come, seems a touch melancholic. It's a bit like Kurt Weil's September Song, the idea that it's downhill all the way from here. Well I am happy to reassure you that it isn't. There is plenty of fun yet to come!

HOWEVER, LOOKING BACK TO THE Fête, it was, quite simply the best ever. Although it never seemed crowded, one only had to look at the car park (full) to realise that we had a fantastic turnout. In the front row was a collection of Classic Cars, all locally sourced, as they say and most from the village.

The weather was perfect. Warm (but not too much), dry and just the hint of a breeze. This is the quintessential village fête; Midsummer Murders without the bodies! We are grateful to John Ibbott, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, who formally opened the Fête.

To emphasise the rustic nature of the occasion, we even had to do a bit of hasty hay-making to clear the area beforehand. All the elements were there; the teas, the ice-creams, the cake stall. A rather good collection of books on the bookstall and, because we are attuned to technology, a metal

detecting feature, where detectorists of all ages could try their hands at finding buried treasure! The Fête doesn't happen by accident, it is the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. It's aim is to fund the upkeep of the village hall for another year. To that end, we raised a record £1331.87. So, thank you to all who helped and to all who came along and supported us.

CHEDISTON & Linstead WI MEET next at Linstead Village Hall, on Tuesday, September 13th. At 2.30pm, there will be, and I quote, "In House Entertainment". I will leave that to your fertile imagination.

THE SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES' Trust annual bike ride takes place on Saturday 14th September. Between 9am and 5pm. Angela Frost has the sponsorship forms (01986 785236) if you would like to take part. We also, as a matter of urgency, need church-sitters, to look after the visiting cyclists. If you could spare an hour (or two) on Saturday 14th, please contact Angela.

IF ONE LISTENS TO THE NEWS IT would sound as if the weather has been just a touch apocalyptic but apart from the odd meteorological spat, we seem to have escaped the worst of it. It is right and proper therefore that we give thanks for a pretty decent harvest. Make sure that date in your diaries:

**THE Linstead  
HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
To be held on  
**SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER at 6.30pm**

Let us never forget that this is one of the highpoints of the year for a country church.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER COMPRISE Matins on the 8th, we are joined by Chediston for a village service on the 15th and there is a service of Holy Communion on the 22nd. All services are at 9.30am.

NOW I HINTED EARLIER ON THAT there was plenty to come this year and before you know where you are, it will be time for that annual culinary extravaganza in which we sample the results of the harvest It is always good fun and a sovereign way of building up a layer of fat against the winter winds! The event is popular, so do please let us know that you are coming so that we have an idea of numbers.

Linstead PCC invites you to

## THE Linstead HARVEST SUPPER

to be held at the Village Hall on

**Saturday 19th October**

**From 7.30pm**

**£12.50 per person Raffle**

In aid of church funds

To book your place, please contact

**Angela Frost (785236) or**

**Malcolm Heath (785289)**

*Don't forget to bring your own liquid refreshment.*

## ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER

**DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING**

1st	No Service
8th	Mrs A Frost and Mrs V Bush
15th	Mrs P Keable and Mr D Keable
22nd	Mr and Mrs R Ward
29th	No Service

## Spexhall

Correspondent Janet Sochon

<http://spexhall.onesuffolk.net/Home/>

I expect that we have all noticed that the nights are beginning to "draw in". It is a sure and early sign of the Autumn to come, though with all this warmth and little rain (at least in Spexhall) autumn still seems far away. I rejoice in the benison of Autumn with the harvest fields standing tall one day and laid low the next with giant round bales of straw standing guard. Combine harvesters slow the traffic somewhat, but trailers still manage to rush down Stone Street (doesn't everything?) and scatter drifts of straw on to the roadside. Already fields are being ploughed and harrowed and so the seasons move onwards. The rhythms of the countryside are very comforting.

Despite the dire weather forecast, which diverted some from attending the Midsummer Mediaeval Mayhem, a goodly number enjoyed the many attractions and were rewarded with a warm and dry afternoon - the promised rain falling only as we cleared up at the end. Various stall-holders and demonstrators commented on the good time they had and the enthusiasm of everybody there. Special mention must be made of the maypole which took me back to my infant schooldays. The plaited ribbons looked lovely - you so rarely see the finished



thing when you are taking part. A repeat performance has been requested for the next Mayhem. Our thanks are due to everyone who demonstrated and ran stalls or side-shows and to Simon and Chloe for feeding us so "tastefully" and especially to Patricia for organising such a special occasion.

Harvest Festival is on September 22nd and will be followed by a village lunch in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend either or both occasions.

The Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Church are supporting an appeal to renovate the War Memorial which has sadly fallen into a state of poor repair. Any offerings will be gratefully received by the Churchwardens or Les Lelean, the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Stop press!** We have topped **£400** for the Mediaeval Mayhem event... a wonderful day, thanks to everyone involved – and very well done! **Jane**

### SPEXHALL AND WISSETT WI

We have been lucky enough to have a variety of speakers over the last few months.

Helen Reeve, was a very enthusiastic lady, who explained how her love of cows, particularly Dexter cattle, had led her life into many different and interesting directions.

In May Sharon Lockhart, from FCC, the Spanish company who administer waste management for Suffolk, explained how it worked, and emphasised how important recycling and reusing our waste is. An inspiring speaker, who pointed out that making small changes to what we use every day will make a difference.

Tina Oldfield, our Speaker in July, explained how she embarked on a trek to Everest Base Camp in memory of her daughter who had sadly died of breast cancer, leaving behind two young daughters. It was truly a feat of endurance, very basic food rations, even more basic - indeed non-existent - bathing facilities, not to mention wobbly bridges over ravines, evading yaks on these bridges, and the unseasonal snow, What an experience, not one which we feel like following.

Some of our members have also enjoyed a boat trip from Norwich, visited Henstead Exotic Gardens, a truly unique award winning garden, and a trip to Wimpole Hall.

In September Andrew Brogan is coming along to tell us about his life in London, before he established the gardens at Henstead, a very engaging and amusing speaker, so why not come along and join us on September 24th, at Spexhall Village Hall, 7pm, a small charge of £4, to include tea and cake. Any queries contact Linda on 01986 874765. **LA**

## Thorington

**Correspondent Trish Gower  
01502 478267**

Thorington PCC wishes everyone a happy late summer and autumn, and invites you to join us for Harvest Festival on Sunday 20th October at 11.15am. There will be light refreshments following the service. Do join in to remember our rural community and growers, from larger scale farmers in East Anglia to those with an allotment or vegetable patch alongside their home. Then there are the not-so-many-now dairy farmers, beef cattle and sheep farmers who work long hours and often in difficult weather conditions.

Years ago my father summed up his life as a farmer as 'You work with the weather'. Those were the days of tractors with no cabs (let alone heating, air conditioning or radios) and working with horses like Captain and Major, long hours ploughing and drilling the next year's crops. Where has the time gone, and we think about changes.

Everyone is also welcome, at our Quiz Night at Wenhaston Village Hall on 13th October at 7.30pm. We are running this jointly with Wenhaston PCC and will share the proceeds. Get those thinking hats on now... book a table with Trish and see you there... bar, raffle, but more about this next month.

## Wenhaston

**Correspondent  
Margaret Bloomfield  
01502 478502**

**margaretbloomfield@talktalk.net**

We were very fortunate to have Mr Geoffrey Munn OBE, MVO, to talk to us on 9th August. Mr Munn gave a very informative and interesting talk on plants and flowers in gems and jewellery, illustrated by some beautiful slides. We are most grateful to him for

giving up his time to come to Wenhaston. Many thanks to Cyrilla, who had the bright idea of asking Mr Munn to come and has liaised with him throughout. Also we are most grateful to the caterers who produced the delicious food, and to all who gave so generously to make the occasion the success it was. At the time of writing the result is in the region of £1500.

On 29th September we will celebrate harvest with the Methodist Church. The service will take place in St Peter's at 11.15am followed by a buffet lunch and an auction of the produce, most of which will be brought to church by the schoolchildren on the preceding Friday. The service will be taken by the Revd Louise Morrissey, the Methodist Minister, and we welcome anyone who would like to come.

A reminder that the SHCT Ride and Stride takes place on 14th September and I am looking for stewards in church, rota in the porch, and hopefully, some brave people to cycle or walk for Wenhaston Church.

### Sidespeople and Services in September

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1st  | Team Service at Halesworth 10am                               |
| 8th  | No service at St Peter's. Team Evensong Blyford, 6.30pm       |
| 15th | Eucharist 9.30am Jenny Jeffrey                                |
| 22nd | Pause for Thought, 11.15am                                    |
| 29th | Harvest Festival, 11.15am, one Anglican and one Methodist tba |

### Church Cleaning in September

- |      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 8th  | Viv Kemp & Frances Watson            |
| 22nd | Margaret Bloomfield and Anita Graves |

### WENHASTON MOTHER'S UNION

AN INVITATION! We invite you to join the Wenhaston Mother's Union Members for a Cream Tea in the Garden at Spindleberry (Narrow Way) on Sunday 1st September between 3pm -5pm. Entry will be £5 to include the cream tea, There will also be a raffle and a Bring and Buy stall.

We are raising funds to support the work of the MU overseas and we would love you to join us and to support us in our efforts. Should it be wet the teas will be held in the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you! **Margaret G**

### WENHASTON WI

Our August meeting took us straight

back to the 1940's when Liz Turner and her friend Collette introduced us to Fashion on the Ration.

Talking us through the reasons behind rationing in the first place, lack of manufacturing capacity due to the necessary call for uniforms for the Armed Forces, the loss of natural materials available all added to the pressure to "Make do and Mend" the catchword of the times.

Liz lead us the through the difficult world of how many points everything was – just 66 per person annually at the start descending to 24 by 1945 – when a dress was 11 points and man's shirt 8, austerity definitely the watch word, where have we heard that before!

All the variations of using pre-loved clothes, the black market and a huge movement to buy/sell and swap were explored and Liz handed out examples of clothes available made on the CC41 label which was introduced by the Government of the day. 38 million gas masks were handed out to the population – but, thankfully, never used. (I remember my own Mickey Mouse one).

Norman Hartnell – who made the Queen's wedding dress – and Hardy Amis were just two of the top designers who were appointed to try to lift women's spirits with their range of up to date utility items – and hats were a must for that added flair!

Much laughter ensued when we reached the portion about underwear – at "passion killers" and so called "boy bafflers", then on to why skirts got shorter – less fabric!

A wonderful evening of information, history and laughter! **WM**

### WENHASTON VILLAGE SHOW

This year's Village Show was said to be the best ever! Mind you this is said most years so you could be forgiven for wondering what the first one was like! However, this year the entries were up with 280 exhibits and nearly 200 people attended the event. There was a real buzz in the afternoon, not only were there entries to admire but there were plants to be bought, historical photos to view, information to gather about the Commons Group, fresh veg to purchased from the Allotments Group and if that wasn't enough, tea and delicious cakes were served.

Thanks must be given to all those



involved in making the show such a tremendous success: The committee, without whom..., the Parish Council and Woottens who sponsored the show, the Exhibitors, the stallholders, the tea ladies, those who came to view and those who stayed to help clear up.

Heather and Jane should be thanked for handing out the trophies to the green-fingered winners. Lastly to the children who attend our school, for their paintings, that not only showed off their artistic prowess, but brightened up the hall.

Yes, indeed it was the best show ever!

PS - We shouldn't forget particular thanks to Dee and Pat for gathering together such an eclectic selection of prizes for the draw and for selling the tickets, thanks also to those who donated the prizes. **FJ**

### Footpath Walking

A morning village walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 3rd September.

On Tuesday 17th September, Viv Kemp will lead a circular walk from Reydon to Walberswick and back for lunch at the Randolph Hotel, Reydon. Park and meet at the Randolph Hotel, Reydon at 9.45am to pre-order lunch. For any further information contact Heather Phillips on 01502 478545.

### WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

We meet again after our summer break on Tuesday 3rd September at 7.30pm in Wenhaston Church Room. We will be welcoming Susan Fitch who will be giving a demonstration entitled "Slipping into Autumn".

ADVANCE NOTICE: Our October meeting (October 1st) will be our Charity Night in aid of Cancer Research (Halesworth branch). Light refreshments provided. Everyone welcome. You don't have to be a member. Donations of food items/cakes for the pantry stall, raffle prizes

etc, would be most welcome. For further information please contact Jean Spindler on 01502 478317.

## Wissett

### Correspondent

**Nick Evans 01986 872372**

**nickandmaggie@btinternet.com**

We were away for the great thunderstorm, which was, as we understand it, full of sound and fury but without enough rain for gardeners and with too much for farmers. We are still – 3rd August – in the legacy period, leaving half of Wissett without landlines and internet, in spite of the daily hard work of Open Reach.

Amongst the many church letters awaiting our return was one from our electricity supplier letting us know that in the previous year all their electrons had come from renewable sources, which is very good, and should also be something to put in to the annual Diocesan returns under the Green heading.

The Horticultural Show, once again organised by Jenny Ball and her team, benefitting from more normal climatic conditions than last year, was a great display and social event. Then the cups and prizes: modesty forbids any names... now the hall roof repairs can start, and the scaffolding is up. This will not hamper the **Harvest Supper** which follows **Harvest Festival at 7pm on Friday 13th September**. Book your place at the supper through Valerie Eagle-Bott at Hill House, 01986 873143.

The church will have its harvest decorations to greet the riders in the **Historic Churches Bike Ride on Saturday 14th**, sponsorship forms are in the church, and more information from Henry Kiddy at Wissett Lodge, 01986 873173. 14th is also **Gift Day**: please consider leaving on the altar a contribution to the continued running of our church.

On **Michaelmas Day, 29th**, there is a special **Deanery Evensong at 3pm**, singing again led by the Team choir.

The faculty notices are down, and we believe that no one has objected, so perhaps we will soon be able to put up the first peal board, and permanently keep the two pews in the new places where they have been for the last few years, forming a bit of extra space at the west end.

# '50 Years a Priest'

## by Malcolm Walkey

I was brought to faith in my teens by a quietly persistent paternal grandmother. She stood all of four feet ten inches tall but was a force to be reckoned with! She was my inspiration to go to church and to keep on going. A nervous and shy youngster at the time, my vocation came like a bolt out of the blue about age 15. A persistent voice within kept prompting me to consider ministry in the Church. (The Church of England in my case). I tried ignoring it, silencing it, displacing it with other more secular pursuits and interests but could not quell it. I finally told my parents with much trepidation that I wanted to enter the Church and become a parish priest. To my surprise, (my parents were not churchgoers) they both listened and encouraged me.

Then came the process of testing the reality of my vocation by the Church authorities, Did God really call me or not? I saw my parish priest, then the Bishop of Chelmsford at the time. I was sent to the Church's Advisory Council for Training to the Ministry selection conference in Blackheath, London. After being recommended for training, I spent five years at Kelham Theological College in Nottinghamshire run by a religious community, the Society of the Sacred Mission. Graduating from Kelham, I was ordained to the diaconate in Leicester Cathedral at Michaelmas 1968. I was 24 then, and ordained to the Priesthood a year later at Michaelmas 1969.

Then began four years parochial training as an assistant-

curate in Oadby in Leicestershire. I was fortunate to be curate along with three other priests to the Revd Eric Devenport who was a fantastic boss, preacher and teacher and later Bishop of Dunwich. Another seven years followed working as a Team Vicar in the Beanfield Team Ministry in Corby, Northants in the diocese of Peterborough under Bishop Douglas Feaver, a true C of E eccentric. It wasn't till I was the 'ripe old age' of 37 that I was finally entrusted with twin parishes, Hartwell and Ashton, near Northampton in 1979. Two parishes for one incumbent would be unheard of now and was pretty rare even then!

So began my time as a parish priest in the C of E. Since then I have been an incumbent in Suffolk, including the Halesworth Team in 1986-1990 and Laxfield, Wilby and Brundish in 1993 up to taking early retirement through ill health in 2001.

This is my potted history. There is much more, of course. Fifty years is a long time, but space has run out.

---

*On Sunday 6th October, by kind invitation of the Blyth Valley Team Clergy, the Revd Malcolm Walkey will celebrate and preach at the Team Eucharist at 10am in St Mary's, Halesworth commemorating the 50th year of his Ordination to the Priesthood. All are welcome to partake of refreshments and Ordination cake afterwards.*

### St Mary's, Halesworth

#### Receipts Summary - July 2019

Collections	£270.00
Planned Giving	£1105.00
Gift Aid	£97.50
General	£57.00
Fees	£807.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£2336.50</u></b>

### Pastoral Ministry

The Pastoral Ministry Team is beginning to grow and we are able to visit more folk as a consequence.

If you know about anyone who might appreciate prayers being said, home visits from a member of the pastoral ministry team or home communion, please let Jane know or email:

[pastoralministry.bvt@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralministry.bvt@gmail.com)

Equally if you regularly visit someone please can you (with that person's permission) let Jane know so we don't end up like buses – all visiting at once!

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### LIFE EVENTS

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

##### BAPTISMS:

Maxime Eric Maurice Genna at Wenhaston  
Thomas Peter Blaise Genna at Wenhaston  
Felix Sebastian Wareham at Chediston  
Isobel Rebecca Marjoram at Chediston

##### WEDDINGS

Robin Stockman and Lauren Mutton at Monks Soham  
Kevin Dixon and Fiona Mamo at Blythburgh  
Christopher Lamming and Chloe Townshend

##### FUNERALS:

Barbara Crawford at Holton  
Peter Charles Barber at Ipswich  
Alan Leonard West at Holton  
Gillian Canham at Holton

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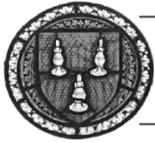


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# Friends of St Mary's Halesworth

## LUNCHTIME RECITALS

WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – With a British Flavour...



A big thank you from FoSM to Shirley Smith (Mezzo), Christopher Upton (Baritone) and piano accompanist Jonathan Rutherford for a truly delightful recital, not least because it was arranged at such short notice. Thank you to all who attended, approximately 50 people undeterred by the weather, raising just over £200 for FoSM funds. The recital really did brighten up our day.

The programme included pieces by Purcell *Lost is my Quiet* and *If Music be the Food of Love* and Vaughan Williams *The Call* from *Five Mystical Songs* based on poems by Anglican Priest George Herbert despite Williams being an Atheist. Then followed *Highland Balou* by Benjamin Britten set to the poem by Robert Burns and *Ash Grove* arranged by Britten. *Sleep* by Christopher Upton, *Sea Fever* by John Ireland and *Go Not Happy Day* by Frank Bridge, the lyrics based on the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson. The finale was the well-known hymn *I heard the voice of Jesus say*.



**PLEASE NOTE, THERE IS NO RECITAL IN SEPTEMBER**

**Recitals will resume again on October 9th**

If you would like your email added to our recitals (**the second Wednesday of every month**) mailing list, please email: [friendsofstmarys@talktalk.net](mailto:friendsofstmarys@talktalk.net)

Or: [facebook.com/FriendsOfStMarysHalesworth](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStMarysHalesworth)

where you can also find details of previous recitals, also on: [www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth.org.uk)

**PLEASE CONTACT US if you would be willing to write a review, take photos or even perhaps provide a recital yourself!**

**(Fully booked for 2019, thanks to all of our recitalists).**

## FLOWER FESTIVAL - 14th – 15th September

Apologies for our error last month, the correct dates of this year's Flower Festival are Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September. This year's theme is Poems or Psalms and entries can be set up on Fri 13th September. If you are able to help with stewarding/ refreshments over the weekend, please let Win, Alison, Rosemarie or any of the committee members



know – there should be a rota at the back of church in the near future. The 2017 winner of the People's Choice Award, engraved by Lesley Pyke, was the entry from Wissett (pictured left) by Melita Rouse-Skeet.

## HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND - A MOMENT IN TIME

This year's Heritage Open Weekend will take place on September 21st and 22nd, including a mediaeval production – 'A Moment in Time'. Please see page 14 for further details.

## 50/50 Club Winners for July:

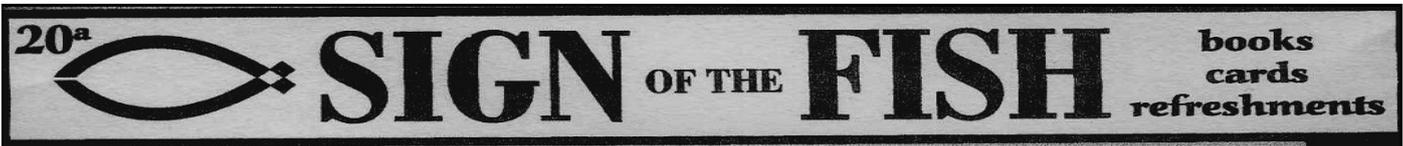
1<sup>st</sup> Prize: C Kiddy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: D Slade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: R Mallett. If you would like to join the 50/50 club, forms can be found on the table by the North door in St Mary's Halesworth.

## CITIZENS ADVICE – HERE TO HELP!

Leiston Citizens Advice gives free advice, help and support to hundreds of people throughout East Suffolk every year. We advise across a wide range of issues including benefits, debt and money, employment, housing, consumer problems, utility issues, relationships and family problems. On an everyday basis our advisers help clients make and manage benefit applications, including Universal Credit, and advise on benefit appeals. We support and help clients through managing and dealing with their debts, and we guide clients through the issues they face when relationships break down, or they face separation or divorce. We are there to help in emergencies when people become homeless, are escaping abuse, or have nothing to eat.

Our main office is in Leiston and we hold outreach sessions in Woodbridge, Saxmundham, Aldeburgh, Wickham Market, Alderton and Framlingham. Anyone who needs to contact us can drop in – no appointment necessary. Our Leiston office is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10am and 2pm. Our outreach offices are open at different times throughout the week – telephone 01728 832193 or check [www.leistoncab.org](http://www.leistoncab.org) for venues and times.

Citizens Advice is always looking for volunteers, including to help with fund-raising. If you would like to talk to us about volunteering – there are a range of roles available – please be in touch with our Manager, Martin Jones, at [bureau@leistoncab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bureau@leistoncab.cabnet.org.uk) Or call 01728 832193.



I love the passage in Nehemiah 8 where Ezra reads from the Book of the Law of Moses that had been found in the ruins of the Temple. He stands on a high wooden platform so that everyone can see and hear him and reads "day after day" to enable the people to understand the words, after which they are told to go out and have a party! Books are a great joy to me and I am privileged to share them, and the Bible, with my Church house group in the hope that we all come to better understand God's word. One of the most recent books I have bought several copies of to share with friends is called *How to Pray* by Pete Greig. Pete is passionate about prayer and started the 24/7 prayer movement which has gone global. This latest book is a really clear, well written, accessible account about how to pray well, something many of us find difficult. I would highly recommend it and we are going to study it alongside the course and dvd that goes with the book in our group sessions. Pete has written some other amazing books - *God on Mute* and *Red Moon Rising* to name but two - which are brilliant. All can be ordered at Sign of the

Fish. And afterwards, have a party as Nehemiah instructed his people to do! Or at least come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee!  
**Jo Dorey**

Sign of the Fish Christian bookshop has been in Halesworth for almost 29 years and has been a great source of comfort, fellowship and help to many people over that time.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers but with increasing frailty and indeed loss of helpers we are appealing for anyone with a heart for the community to volunteer, on an occasional basis. Currently we open six days a week, every morning and two afternoons. We are finding it increasingly difficult to stay open with our current helpers. I am sure no-one would wish to see this little shop close, as its such a vital part of our Christian Ministry in the town.

If you feel you could help in volunteering, then please contact me. Thank you. **Marilyn Pettit. Tel 01986 874316.**

**Mobile 07910850221.**

**Email: marilynand brian@hotmail.co.uk**

## Blyth Valley Times Style

You may see in your newspaper occasional references to "Things we got wrong" which may be apologies for using a wrongly-labelled photograph of somebody, or an error of fact; but there are also corrections for style, where the newspaper uses particular formats or words rather than others. There isn't a "right" or "wrong", but the paper prefers one usage.

For some months now *Blyth Valley Times* has been proofread to ensure this sort of consistency, and we keep a "style manual" to ensure it. Librarians do the same, and call it an "authority file" to make sure, for example, that documents issued by the Department of Health are not catalogued under the former name Department of Health and Social Security. Similarly, the medical author Sean Hughes is correctly called S.P.F.Hughes not any other of the three names he wrote under!

With this in mind, Carolyn and John have put together some of the obvious things which can be written in different ways, with the way that we prefer them in *Blyth Valley Times*. This is not to say that this is the correct form, only that this is the correct form for *Blyth Valley Times*. (John has just read about Hochkommkrankheit, an imaginary disorder where the sufferer is "obsessed with the correct and incorrect use of apostrophes", and thinks he may have it).

**Abbreviations & acronyms:** no full stops eg HCNCf, WI

**BVT:** use *BVTimes* (ital) or Blyth Valley Team or BVTM for Blyth Valley Team Ministry

**Bible references:** be consistent, Psalm 107 v.8, Revelation 21 v.4

**Numbers:** use one to ten, 11 onwards; first to tenth, 11<sup>th</sup> onwards

Quotations "but not in italics"

**Saint** – St [contraction, no full stop] NOT St. In the Team, always specify where e.g. St Mary Chediston

**Street** – St. [abbreviation, with a full stop] NOT St

**Titles** in italics: Books (other than Biblical, Hymn, Musical items & Tunes, Periodicals and newspapers, Plays, Poems & Public houses eg *Pride & Prejudice*, *Thine be the Glory*, *Casta diva*, *Crimond*, *The Times*, *Daily Mirror*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Ode to a Grecian Urn*, *Huntsman & Hounds*.)

We'll try to correct other things - for example, paten (church plate), patten (footwear) and platen (photocopiers) - but can't guarantee to get them right every time. And no, we don't know why mince pies are two words, but mincemeat is only one.

We can always find an authority for the way we do things, but are quite happy to discuss anything you disagree with!

**John H and Carolyn**

## Regeneration News

Well (as I say frequently) you have got to have faith. A slow down in forward progress over the last few months is all my fault, but we are submitting a revised Project Plan to the DAC (Diocesan Planning Committee) in September, choosing colours for the chairs and ordering them, getting the new nave lights installed, (and hopefully getting the high windows cleaned and spiders' webs removed).

We will be applying for grants for stage two soon as well. We hope the DAC will formally approve our proposals so we can get on with levelling the whole floor before the Christmas season, which would be really excellent.

Again volunteers to join the Regeneration Steering Group would be very welcome. Many hands make light work!

Before the floor is levelled we will be having a giant clear out and clean up session – watch this space!

**Jane**



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## Halesworth & District Museum - A Sporting Life<sup>1 2</sup>

### Tennis – Lawn and Table

By 1885 Halesworth players (all ladies) were competing in the Saxmundham Lawn Tennis Tournament at Hurts Hall, Saxmundham, and The *Halesworth Times* of 25 August reports: *As usual [it] attracted a large number of the elite of County Society and those devoted to this increasingly popular amusement. Our local wielders of the racquet appeared in force including Mrs Percy Warwick, Miss Rant, Miss G Rant, Miss Marriott, Miss M Marriott.*

By 1891 a Halesworth Lawn Tennis Club had been formed, playing and winning its first match against Saxmundham. In 1908, a piece of ground behind houses on London Road was rented from Mr Stanton Roe, big enough to house two tennis courts, though, for a while at least, the Club continued to use the private courts of Mr Roe in his paddock off Wissett Road.

During WW1, the townspeople created a fund and subsequently purchased a meadow in Bungay Road to provide playing facilities for the returning heroes which was used by both the tennis and cricket clubs, although the grass courts were abandoned by WW2.

From around 1947 the Club was playing on hard courts on Dairy Hill (on a site now built over) but space was limited and they were abandoned in favour of a private grass court at 'Fairstead' in Spexhall, provided by Mrs Rupert Steward.

During the 1950's, the *Halesworth Urban District Council* realised the need for sporting facilities; a meeting was convened and the *Halesworth Playing Fields Association*, (now *Halesworth Community Sport & Leisure*), was formed.

The search for a space in the town for a sporting complex led the Tennis Club to put its resources into the development of the site at Dairy Hill with its two hard courts. The club has been based here since the late 1950's, developing the facilities with floodlights secured in 1995 and a mini-pavilion in 1997.

As well as staging its own championships and playing friendly games against neighbouring teams, the Club has played in the Lowestoft League, often fielding two teams. The first team topped the Second Division twice, in 1970 and 1996, and were runners-up in the First Division in 1954 and 1982. Support, encouragement and coaching of junior players became a significant feature after coaching classes were begun by Mr Derek Newby in 1959. A star pupil was John Barber who played senior and junior tennis for Suffolk for some years and won an under-18's Trophy at the age of 14.

More recently, the Club also embarked on friendly 'exchange' tournaments with the French town of Laon.

Meanwhile, Table Tennis started its life in the 1880's. There is, sadly, no record of the game of table tennis in Halesworth before the 1950's but it must have been played earlier, here as elsewhere. During the 1950's there was a regular Youth Club team at the Congregational (now URC) Church in Quay Street who played in (and occasionally won) the Peasenhall Table Tennis League.

When the Leisure Centre was opened in 1977, it provided a new home for the game. Matches were regularly played in the Beccles and District League. There were also facilities for other enthusiasts in the Social Club on the Market Place.

For a spell, a table tennis club met in St Mary's Church Room, though this seems to have been wound up around 2000. The Club came full circle and returned to the United Reformed Church, whilst other clubs developed in the area, including a large one at Wenhaston Village Hall.

**Jenny Janes**

<sup>1</sup>The *Sporting Life* was a British newspaper originally priced at one penny (1d) and published 1859-1998

<sup>2</sup>*This Sporting Life* is a 1963 British drama film based on the 1960 novel of the same name by David Storey.



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