



Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

October 2021

Volume 42

Issue 10

£1.00

Minimum Donation

The Revving Rev sets off!



Goodness knows why I looked so cheerful BEFORE I actually climbed on the back of that machine! BUT the terror, the creaky hips and knees, the pillion passenger's numb b** and the excitement were all worth it. AND thanks to everyone's generosity, we have raised £1200 and counting to kick start Phase 2 of the St Mary's Halesworth Regeneration Fund. Thank you, Kingsley and thank you everyone else for your support.

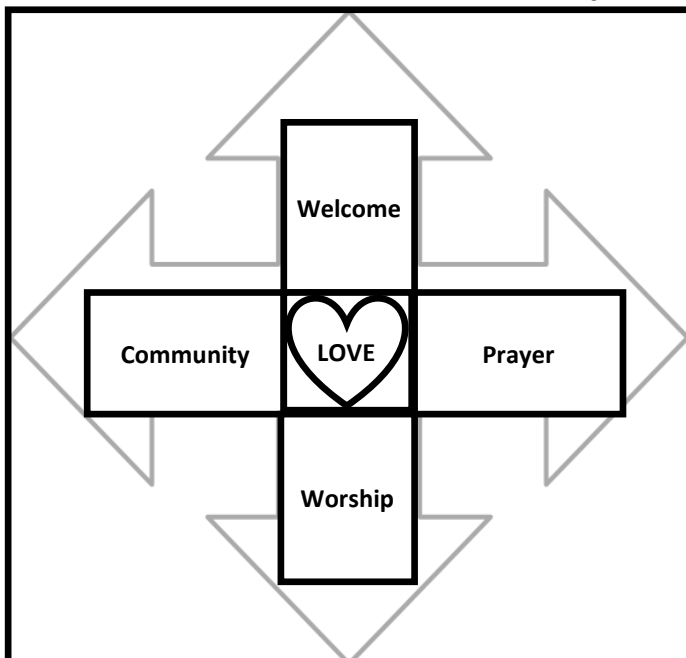
Revd Jane Held

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

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

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www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk



VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
for the latest information on Services etc.
There are current news items and photos
on our Facebook page, too:



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

TREASURER NEEDED!

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

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

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Sunday Readings

26 September

17th Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 19,7-end
Numbers 11,4-6,10-16,24-29
James 5,13-end
Mark 9,38-end

3 October

18th Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 8
Genesis 2,18-24
Hebrews 1,1-4;2,5-12
Mark 10,2-16

10 October

19th Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 90,12-end
Amos 5,6-7,10-15
Hebrews 4,12-end
Mark 10,17-31

17 October

20th Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 91,9-end
Isaiah 53,4-end
Hebrews 5,1-10
Mark 10,35-45

24 October

Last Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 126
Jeremiah 31,7-9
Hebrews 7,23-end
Mark 10,46-end

31 October

4th Sunday before Advent

Psalm 24,1-6
Isaiah 25,6-9
Revelations 21,1-6a
John 11,32-44

7 November

3rd Sunday before Advent

Psalm 62,5-end
Jonah 3,1-5,10
Hebrews 9,24-end
Mark 1,14-20

14 November

2nd Sunday before Advent

Psalm 16
Daniel 12,1-3
Hebrews 10,11-14,19-25
Mark 13,1-8

BVTM Team Office Opening Hours

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

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

Or via email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

If your enquiry is urgent, please contact the Revd Dominic Doble on 07743 554955

Blyth Valley Team Ministry - October 2021 Rota

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

Worship in the Blyth Valley in October 2021					
Year B – track 2	3rd October Proper 22 Green	10th October Proper 23 Green	17th October Proper 24 Green	24th October Last after Trinity Green	31st October 4th before Advent/All Saints 5th Sunday Red
Group 1					
Halesworth St Mary	10am TEAM Service Dominic Baptism 2pm Jane	10am BCP Holy Communion David Baptism 2pm Dominic	10am Eucharist Jane	10am Iona Worship Jason Baptism 12pm <i>tbc</i>	To Team Service
Holton St Peter	To Team Service	10am Harvest Festival Diana	10am Iona Worship Mary Curtis Baptism 12pm Jane	10am Eucharist Dominic	To Team Service
Group 2					
Wenhaston St Peter	To Team Service	10am Eucharist Anna	10am Pause for Thought Alison	10am Morning Worship Margaret K	To Team Service
Bramfield St Andrew	To Team Service	10.00am Harvest Festival Jane	To other services	10.00am Eucharist Alison	To Team Service
Blyford All Saints	To Team Service	To other services	10am Harvest Festival David	To other services	To Team Service
Thorington St Peter	To Team Service	To other services	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Group 3					
Chediston St Mary	To Team Service	10am Morning Worship Vic	10am Eucharist Linda	10am Morning Worship Diana	To Team Service
Wissett St Andrew	To Team Service	To other services	10am Morning Worship Win	10am Eucharist Anna	10am TEAM Eucharist Dominic
Spexhall St Peter	To Team Service	To other services	10am Harvest Festival Dominic	To other services	To Team Service
Linstead St Margaret	6.30pm Harvest Festival Dominic	To other services	9.30am Matins Malcolm H	To other services	To Team Service
Group 4					
Cookley St Michael	To Team Service	To other services	9.30am Sunday Eucharist Fr Jonathan	To other services	To Team Service
Heveningham St Margaret	To Team Service	6.30pm Harvest Festival Songs of Praise Jane	To other services	To other services	To Team Service
Huntingfield St Mary	To Team Service	10.00am Harvest Festival Win	To other services	To other services	To Team Service

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Peter Rayson

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

OCTOBER 2021

3 Revd Peter Rayson HC

10 Revd Robin Searles

17 Julie Warren

24 Revd Louise Morrissey

31 Revd Ian McKillop

Tuesday 19th Bible Study at 2.30pm

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

**Roman Catholic Church,
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth**

Father Christopher Smith

*Please enquire about
our Service times and details*

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

Gathered worship *continues* (Sundays 11am)

But our events also continue online:

Services on Zoom include:

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

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

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

Messy Church and additional events as announced.

Sunday mornings @ **11am** specifically coming up:

Sun 3 Oct Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**) incl. Communion

Sun 10 Oct Gathered in the church building **all-age worship** (**and on Zoom**)

ALSO: 3pm Harvest Festival @ Bramfield Chapel

Sun 17 Oct Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**)

Sun 24 Oct Gathered in the church building (**and on Zoom**)

Contacts:

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761

jon@sermons.me.uk

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926,

Passcode: 811885



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From the Rector...

So a little over a month after I arrived, I find myself announcing Jane Held's new appointment. After haring round the team on a motorbike, she will soon be on the move again to Butterton, Ipstones with Berkhamstich and Oncote with Bradnop in Lichfield Diocese. There are many who feel that the Church as an organisation should have better rewarded her for her valiant voluntary vicaring after the death of our much-loved Edward. This appointment may go some way to recognising the effort she put in during those difficult months that we are all so grateful to her for. We hold Jane and Emma in our prayers as their new chapter begins. Though we will be seeing her on days off and keeping in touch. Do also pray for us as we share out the invaluable roles she has been undertaking over the years.

One aspect of her legacy that will live on is the Working Groups that will develop ideas generated from the Team Away day that Jane facilitated. During the day of socialising, worship, reflection and creativity we considered together those things that we may be ready to put aside at least for now. We listed all the wonderful things that we do that we would like to try and continue to resource. The other set of ideas were those things that we are not yet doing that people have suggested to us. The aim as we move forward with change, new people and a different relationship with Covid-19 is not to lose the good things we do or miss opportunities for things we might.

An element of this journey is making sure we make our decisions in a way that involves the people we should in discussions, even if some may have to agree to disagree on any particular point in relation to the agreed outcome. These Working Groups will be part of that development and operate under the Team Council. As we move to include the Cluster parishes, the Team Council's constitution is also going to have to be reviewed to include them. This will be an opportunity to recognise the relationship I have as Incumbent with the Churchwardens. This results from the

fact that both roles are Bishop's appointments with specific legal responsibilities and property rights.

One way of doing this is to start up monthly social workshops to share ideas and encouragement. Churchwardens may find themselves in the role by default or on their own. They may feel overwhelmed by the post's responsibilities for their much loved ancient buildings, their distinctive contents and the churchyards in which they invariably sit. If we can find mutually convenient times these may be by Zoom or face to face as safety considerations permit.

These are just some of the activities that we will be looking to sustain or start up again.

Others include the popular, Ofsted-approved, 'Open the Book' nursery stories from the Bible enacted by volunteers welcomed into our schools. The Halesworth Volunteer Centre and St Mary's collaboration on Community Larder will continue to grow. Work is underway to advertise and appoint a Team Vicar as a second full time paid post to join the rich and varied expertise of the current Wider Ministry Team. The role is expected to be outward facing to connect with people of faith who may be infrequent attenders or otherwise detached from the support networks enjoyed by regulars nurtured by our Holy Communion and Daily Prayer. Finally three no less exciting possibilities include setting up a new Toddler Group, partnering with organisations working together on the environment and restoring the Parochial Church Council for St Mary's Walpole. Do get in touch if you are interested to learn more, get involved or tell us how we may better serve you in prayer and practice!

A very big thank you to all who rode, strode, welcomed and sponsored across the Team and Cluster for the 2021 Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride. It was an amazing shared effort that exemplified how the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Dominic



CAFÉ WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS – 10.00AM

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US ON ZOOM

CONTACT Revd Jane FOR THE CODE TO USE TO JOIN IN



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble
Tuesdays to Saturdays, from
St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer Zoom
Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092
Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer Zoom
Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304
Passcode - 825686

Live streamed on Facebook:
blythvalleychurchessuffolk
and later audio on Dominic's YouTube channel



COMPLINE

Daily at 9.30pm on Facebook:
blythvalleychurchessuffolk



HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

September saw the return of parent and toddler sessions and Messy Church in the building, as well as family specific Sunday work.

In my thinking, praying and preaching, recently, I have been drawn back a number of times to the section of 2 Chronicles 7 which includes (at v14):

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land."

Those of us who were excited new Christians in the '70s may well recall the musicals, written by Jimmy and Carol Owens, that made such an impact, starting with "Come Together". The 2nd one, based on this verse had the title "If my People". We became familiar with the call to do those four things that might 'unlock' forgiveness and healing in our Nation:

Humble ourselves Pray

Seek God's face Turn from our wicked ways

Each of these could merit a whole item in BVT. And together, they highlight conditions that may prepare the ground for renewal and revival.

But we could easily miss the context of the verses before: Solomon is dedicating the Temple. At v12 God responds saying he accepts it as a place for (prayer and) sacrifice. Then at v13, God sets the backdrop for the promise above: *"when I shut up the heavens so there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land, or send a plague among my people, if my people..."*

Without straying into the dangerous waters of whether disaster is 'sent by God', 'allowed by God', the result of human rebellion, part of the natural way of things etc. doesn't the Covid pandemic and all we have been going through feel a bit like that context? And isn't it highlighting that our need to respond in those ways, in the circumstances we now find ourselves, seems even stronger than is often the case?

It falls to believers (*us!*) to take a lead in this: How could those who don't yet know the Lord be expected to seek his face, without those of us who do setting out in that direction first?

Among the many ways we can seek out support as we go deeper in seeking God's face are many retreat, training & prayer opportunities. One such is coming up locally:

The 2nd session of the Dunamis Project in East Anglia "In the Spirit's Power" which concentrates on the Gifts of the Spirit, is Mon 4th – Fri 8th October. It's a chance to get away, spend time with God and grow spiritually in a safe context! It is at Belsey Bridge just outside Bungay. ***This is not denominational but for the whole church.*** Details are on the website: www.dunamis.org.uk

Last minute bookings may well still be possible.

Blessings

Jon





Contactless giving is as easy as

1... 2... 3...



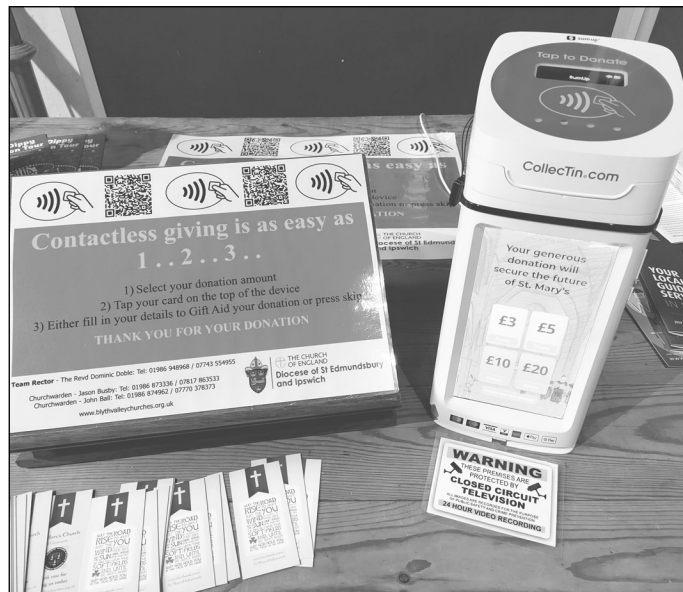
Those of you who have visited St Mary's church Halesworth recently, cannot fail to have noticed the new piece of technology located on a table in the north aisle.

St Mary's is one of a small number of churches in the Diocese selected to take part in a one year contactless giving pilot scheme. A contactless giving station has therefore been installed.

To make a contactless donation to St Mary's Halesworth, just follow these three simple steps:

- 1 - Select your donation amount.
- 2 - Tap your bank card on the top of the device.
- 3 - Either fill in your details to Gift Aid your donation, or press skip.

Thank you for your donation.



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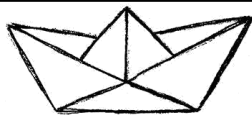
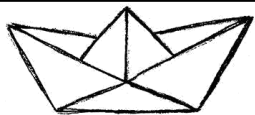
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Prayer Boats for COP26 – UN Climate Change Conference

I hope you have already made your prayer boat, with a prayer or a hope for the future of our planet written on it.

We are taking part in a campaign run by Christian Aid to highlight the importance of this conference for God's creation and future generations.

If you're not great at paper folding, you can draw a boat instead. Instructions on how to make the boat can be found on the Christian Aid website if you haven't received them via your church (www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain).

There is a box in which to put completed boats in St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

The deadline for completing your boat is **Monday 11th October**.

Rev'd Alison Alder



HALESWORTH'S SCARECROW FESTIVAL AND TREASURE TRAIL



It's back! Halesworth's Scarecrow Festival and Treasure Trail makes a welcome return in October.

Starting on Saturday 16th October and running to 30th October, the Thoroughfare and Market Place in Halesworth will be host to a parade of scarecrows, demonstrating the creative skills and sometimes just down right weird imagination of the local populace!

At the same time, the Treasure Trail will be available, this year's theme is appropriately, Halloween. The entry forms are still only £1 and can be bought from Edwards Restaurant and Halesworth Library.

All funds raised will go to local charities. There is a top prize of £50 and smaller cash prizes are available for the runners up.

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Mr Davidson

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Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund

AGM

HdCF held its Annual General Meeting in August. It was attended by representatives of the Council and various welfare organisations, as well as members of the public. One of the jobs was to elect the committee for the new year. The existing committee members were re-elected, with Teresa Fyfe continuing as the Chair and Dave Rich as Secretary. Paddy Cox took on the roll of Carers' Representative.

Fund Raising

HdCF has to raise thousands of pounds annually to enable it to carry out the main function of supporting families. We are delighted to hear of two people running marathons to help us. Danny Mitchell will be running in the Chelmsford half-marathon on 3rd October. Later this year Karen Prime will be running a virtual marathon and will be donating some of the money raised to HdCF. We are truly grateful to both of these people for running on our behalf. We do hope people will feel able to sponsor either of these local heroes, and we will let you know how they get on.

Thoroughfare Stall

The committee ran a stall in the Thoroughfare on 14th August. The aim was to publicise our work, and we were delighted at the interest from people coming past.

Danny was there with sponsor forms for his marathon. We also had cakes, cds and books for sale, and with the pick-a-square competition, we took £206 for funds. Many thanks to all who supported us. The basket of fruit was won by Irene Thomas.

Film at The Cut

Following the September showing of the Cut, the next film show will be in November, and it is likely to be *Downton Abbey* and will be shown on Wednesday 17th November.

For further information regarding HdCF please contact us via: information.hdcf@btinternet.com or call 01986 875444.

JW

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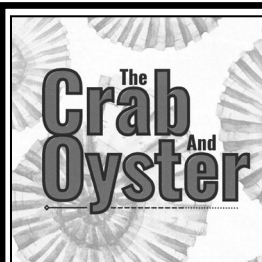
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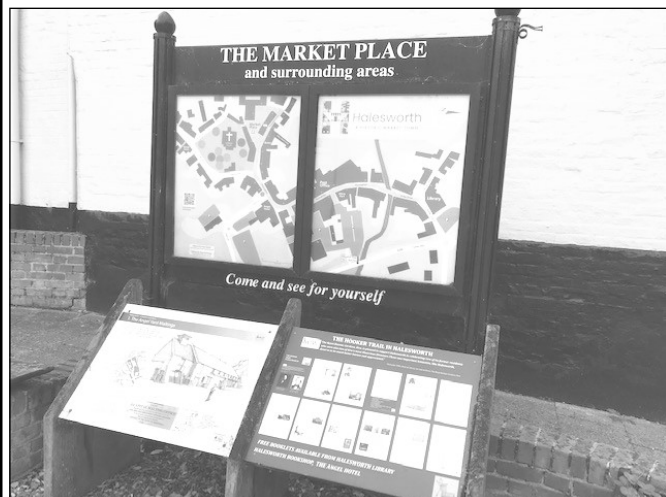


Updated Town Noticeboard

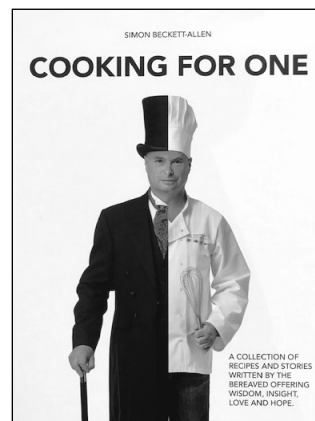
The noticeboard located near Angel Link in Halesworth has recently been updated. It now features one of the new Halesworth town maps.

It also has a QR code, so that anyone with a mobile phone can link directly to the new town centre website:

www.halesworthtown.co.uk



COOKING FOR ONE



Cooking for One is now on sale! Rosedale Funeral Home are proud to launch their collection of recipes and stories written by the bereaved offering wisdom, insight, love and hope.

Over the years of running bereavement support groups, Rosedale have learned that many people who have lost a partner find it difficult to prepare meals for just one person and the importance of food and cooking can diminish.

Cooking for One is available to buy now online in hardback for £20. Many kind partners across Norfolk and Suffolk will also be stocking the book, or you can pop into one of Rosedale's homes and collect one in person.

All profits from Cooking for One will be donated to Cruse Bereavement Care.

To find out more about Cooking for One and for a list of stockists, please visit the Rosedale Funeral Home website - <https://www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk/cookingforone/>

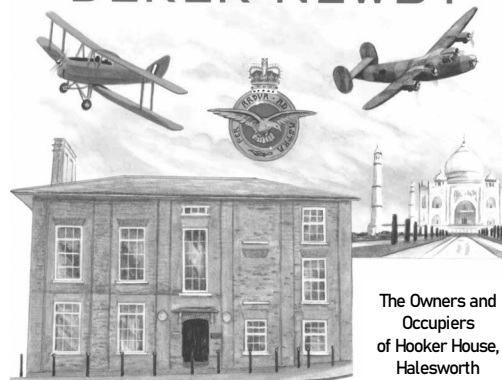
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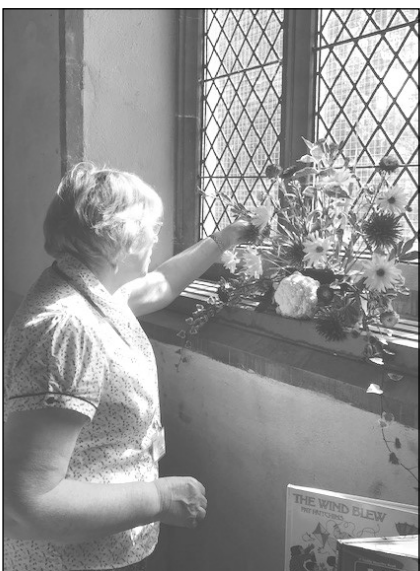
ST MARY'S FLOWER FESTIVAL 2021

At the time of writing, St Mary's Church Halesworth was being prepared for the Flower Festival competition as part of the Halesworth Heritage weekend held on September 18th and 19th.

The theme was "Edible England". St Mary's was filled with home produce, colourful fragrant flowers and foliage, all beautifully arranged by very talented individuals, representing local groups, businesses and organisations.

The most popular arrangement, receiving the highest number of votes from visitors to the event, will be awarded "The People's Choice" and receive a glass trophy (created by Lesley Pyke) which they keep until the next Flower Festival competition is held.

A photograph of the winning arrangement will feature in next month's *BVTimes*.



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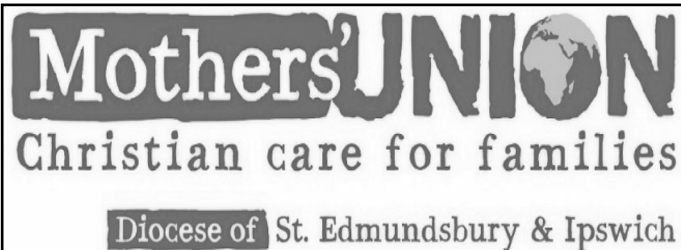
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This month we are featuring articles from
Peculiar Times! No 20.
 Please visit: www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
 or: www.musuffolk.org.uk
 to read the full version of the newsletter

News from Mary Sumner House

Annual Gathering 2021 – Saturday 25th September, 11am – 2.30pm

This year, instead of the Annual Meeting, there will be a special Annual Gathering shown live on YouTube. It will be a celebration of what MU has achieved over the past year and an opportunity to look forward to the future and the new triennium. The programme will include an address from our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper and our CEO, Bev Jullien, as well as a financial update and a range of inspiring and informative contributions from members across Britain & Ireland and beyond. Why not watch together with a group of members from your branch, with lunch or cakes! Further details on how to join can be found on the main MU website www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/general-meeting-2020/ If you can't watch it then you will be able to watch it later on the MU YouTube channel.

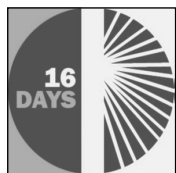
Re-imagining Mothers' Union

Mary Sumner House has launched a process to 're-imagine' Mothers' Union – to build on our strengths and adapt to new challenges to become an organisation that will enthuse both existing and potential members and continue the vision of Mary Sumner. The idea is that there will be a series of coffee mornings where members come together for a chat over a cup of coffee and contribute their ideas. Linda, the trustees and officers will hold the first coffee morning then it will cascade down to branches across the Diocese. Look out for more details soon!

Connected Autumn

The autumn edition of our magazine Connected will be posted out to members in October, so if you don't receive your copy please contact Clare Thomas on 01473 832808 or clare.thomas@btinternet.com

MU campaign against Domestic Abuse



Mary Sumner House is busy preparing resources for the 16 Days of Activism (25th November – 10th December) and the MU Global Day of Action on 27th November. There will be a bookmark in the prayer diary, scarves, posters, service suggestions, activities and lots more. We will publish more information on our website and send out to Branch leaders once available.

Christmas Cards for Prisoners

A group of Diocesan and branch members met on the 8th September at Di Barker's home to make nearly 1,000 Christmas cards, which will be distributed at Highpoint Prison near Newmarket, close to Christmas. We know that for some prisoners this will be the only card they receive. Thanks to all those who participated and others who passed on used

Christmas cards for us to recycle. The pictures from these cards are trimmed and remounted with a greeting from Mothers' Union. Our thanks to Di Barker for coordinating the production and distribution of these cards.

Please pray for Prisoners, Prison Staff and Chaplains as they try to cope with all the pressures that confinement and limited contact with families brings.

Sue Norrington, Diocesan Members rep

Malawi

Birmingham Diocese has a strong and longstanding link to Malawi, and the MU members there help fill a container of items once a year – knitted baby hats and blankets, clothes, sewing machines, all sorts of equipment and fabric to make face masks have all be transported out this way. You can read more about this project here:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/friendships-and-practical-help-birmingham-malawi>

We are hoping that we might be able to strengthen our link with Lake Malawi Diocese via this route.

Subs for 2022

Branch Treasurers will be starting to collect in subscriptions for 2022 – the rate is £23. Members are now able to choose to pay by Direct Debit if they prefer, or by cash or cheque as usual. Do ask your Branch Treasurer if you would like more information about this option, or look on our website (www.musuffolk.org.uk). You will need to sign up by the 1st November in order for Mary Sumner House to get everything ready to take the 2022 subscription in January. Please contact Clare Thomas if you have any questions about the Direct Debits – 01473 832808 or clare.thomas@btinternet.com

Easyfundraising

As we approach the Christmas season, please consider joining the Easyfundraising scheme if you shop online, or if family members do. Once you have signed up Easyfundraising gives 1% or more of your purchase value to Mothers' Union, at no extra cost to you, each time you buy online. Purchases from over 4000 shops and websites including all the big supermarkets, Amazon, Ebay, M&S, Boots etc are all eligible. These donations really mount up – so far we have raised £522 for our AFIA fund – so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easy fundraising page at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stedsipswichmu/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

Prayer suggestions

Refugees across the world.

Students starting at new schools or university.

People who are more at risk from Covid as regulations ease.

Mothers' Union at i-Chameleon 21st - 27th October

Once again for the fifth year, members of the MU branches in the North Suffolk Area will be in the pop-up shop, i-Chameleon, trading for a week, the second half of which is half-term week.

Margaret Bloomfield, Win Sutton and I will accept donations of good quality bric-a-brac, household goods, books, CDs, DVDs, toys, (but not soft toys), children's books, jams, chutneys, marmalade, fabrics and wool. These will be gratefully received. We are sorry that we are not able to accept clothing, except perhaps vintage items, duvets and pillows, also videos. We will need items for sale about a week before in order to price them. We shall be setting up the shop later on Wednesday 20th October. Ring me if you are able to bring your donations to my house, 4 Church View, Holton, or if you would like me to collect them.

There will be items from MUE, (Mothers' Union Enterprises), greetings cards, Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, and gifts, all at reasonable prices. You will also be able to look at a Mothers' Union Christmas and Autumn/Winter Gift Guide, if you would like to order anything else

Members of Halesworth Branch will be serving in the pop-up shop on Friday 22nd and Wenham Branch on Tuesday 26th October. Members from other branches will be there on the other days. We shall be open 10am to 4pm.

The North Suffolk Area Committee will meet soon afterwards to decide how to allocate the monies raised, but it will be for the work of the Mothers' Union in supporting and empowering families in our own Diocese, the UK and Ireland and overseas where there is an MU presence. In past years we have supported such other funds as 'Lighthouse', the women's Refuge in Ipswich, and bought small Christmas gifts for those staying in the Ipswich Night Shelter. No money will go into any Branch funds.

When in town do pop in, say hello to anyone on duty and hopefully find something to buy. i-Chameleon gives us a great opportunity to raise the profile of Mothers' Union.

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

**Mothers' Union North Suffolk Area
Pop-up shop, i-Chameleon, Halesworth
Thursday 21st - Wednesday 27th October
10am - 4pm**

Good quality bric-a-brac, household goods, books, CDs, DVDs, toys, children's books, jams, chutneys, marmalade, fabrics and wool.

Also items from MUE, greetings cards, Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, and gifts

**Supporting and empowering families in the Diocese,
the UK and Overseas.**

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Apply now for Sept 2022!

**Your award-winning
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Breakfast &
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England Primary School**

www.brampton.suffolk.sch.uk

**... welcoming children from the wider
community as well as our local area...**

*Find us 5 minutes from the A12,
10 minutes from Halesworth, 15 minutes
from Beccles, 8 minutes from Blythburgh,
and 15 minutes from Southwold.*

**To visit
Call: 01502 575287**

Find us on Facebook 



Brampton Playgroup

Tuesdays 1.15-2.30pm

Teacher-led sessions

- **Toys and games**
- **Story time**
- **Outdoor games**
- **Creative crafts**
- **Music**

**Outdoor
and covid risk
assessed**



**Brampton Church of
England Primary School**

www.brampton.suffolk.sch.uk

Find us on Facebook 

Call: 01502 575287

LOCAL EVENTS

HALESWORTH SCARECROW FORTNIGHT "The Return"

16-30th October 2021

Visit the many scarecrows whilst following the Pumpkin trail around the town.

Vote for your favourite scarecrow and win cash prizes.

Forms available from: Halesworth Library, Edwards, the Hideout Café and Halesworth Bookshop.



CANCER RESEARCH UK HALESWORTH BRANCH

JUMBLE SALE

with GOOD AS NEW and BRIC-A-BRAC
at HOLTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER, 10am - 12pm

TEA/COFFEE AND DELICIOUS CAKES

The
Children's
Society

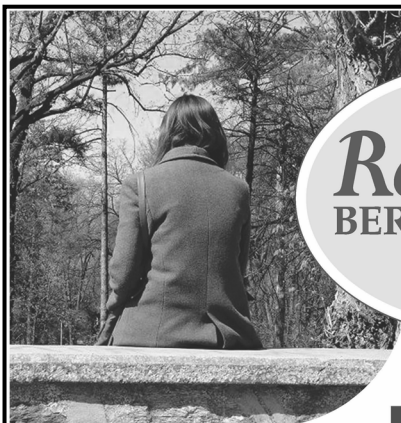
Coffee Morning & Box opening

THURSDAY 30th SEPTEMBER
10am to 12 noon

in St Peter's Room, Holton Church

New boxes will be available for new box-holders

Bring & Buy ☆ Cakes ☆ Raffle



Rosedale
BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT
GROUPS

Starting

**Monday
25th Oct 2021
2.00 - 3.30 pm**

and running for
8 Mondays

Pear Tree Centre
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Halesworth
IP19 8SG



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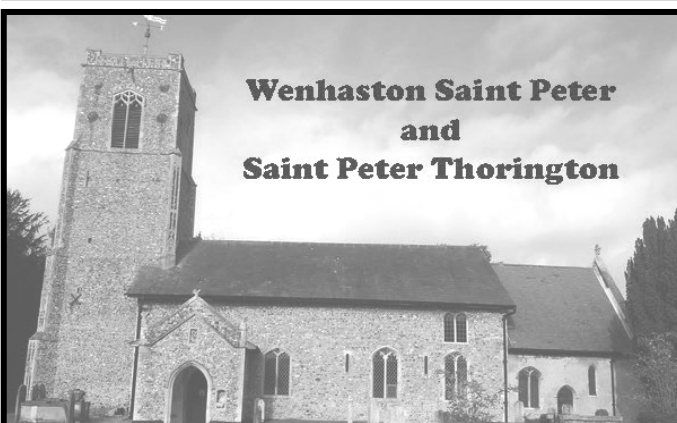
Led by an experienced bereavement group facilitator, in association with Rosedale Funeral Home, Halesworth.

halesworth@rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk

This complimentary course welcomes everyone, no matter how long ago you were bereaved, or which funeral director you used.

Grief is the price we pay for loving. Everyone's experience of grief is unique and there is no right or wrong way to grieve. In this group you will find people who care – and understand what you are going through.

**All enquiries either in branch at Halesworth Tel 01986 875588
or to the Bereavement Facilitator Lucy on 07753 299925**



Wenhaston Saint Peter
and
Saint Peter Thorington

Two-Saint-Peter's Quiz

**Friday 22nd October
Wenhaston Village Hall**

Raffle

7 for 7.30

Bar

**Entry £12 for a table of four
Proceeds in aid of both churches**

Forms available at Wenhaston Post Office

The Church and Politics – Revd Alison Alder



At a recent Café Church, we reflected on the relationship between the Church and political issues.

There are many people, both inside and outside the Church, who feel the Church has no business commenting on decisions the Government is making: we shouldn't interfere.

However, Archbishop Justin Welby said in an article in the *Huffington Post* a few years ago that as Christians, we are not called to keep quiet and avoid rocking the boat:

"The trouble is that's not what Jesus Christ did. He was never party political. No wing of politics – left or right – can claim God as being on its side.

But Jesus was highly political. He told the rich that, unlike the poor who were blessed, they would face woes. He criticised the King as a fox. He spoke harsh words to leaders of the nations when they were uncaring of the needy.

He did this because God cares for those in need and expects those who claim to act in his name to do the same. That means action - and words." *Archbishop Justin Welby 16.3.18. www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-and-writing/articles*

In Café Church, we looked at how, as Christians, our response to controversial issues should be based in Scripture. In Psalm 34, we are instructed to:

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

And, of course, the fundamental message of our faith is **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself."** In our words, in our actions and in our prayers, we are called to live out God's love. We should take care that what we say challenges rather than reinforces prejudice. We should strive to ensure the decisions we make in our lives promote equality and justice.

A good example of this is the recent letter twelve Church of England Bishops wrote to *The Guardian* about the Government's approach to migrant crossings. I hope you will read it, and ensure that the example of the Good Samaritan stays in your thoughts as you watch and respond to future news stories.

Bishops concerned by government's approach to migrant crossings

Church of England Bishops say it is time for a reappraisal which looks again at serious multilateral approaches to refugees.

(Ref - [Bishops concerned by government's approach to migrant crossings | Letters | The Guardian](#))

As bishops within the Church of England with a particular oversight of asylum and refugee issues, we are deeply concerned about the government's approach to migrant crossings of the Channel.

The Nationality and Borders Bill currently before parliament would criminalise not only attempts to cross the border irregularly, nor even simply people smuggling, but even those who take part in the rescue of boats in distress at sea.

This would require those who see asylum seekers at risk to choose between ignoring a moral imperative (also established in maritime law) to assist them, or to risk prosecution and imprisonment. This amounts to a criminalisation of the Good Samaritan who did not pass by on the other side, and an affront to justice to put the saving of lives under any sort of legal penalty. The new "turn back" policy, which will see boats forcibly returned to France, also raises significant moral concerns. It starkly increases the risks at sea and endangers the lives of those attempting the crossing.

The trend of increasing militarisation and securitisation of the border is demonstrably failing to deter attempted channel crossings (as the stark increases in such numbers over the past 24 months aptly shows). What these measures have succeeded in doing instead is forcing those seeking to make the crossing to employ ever riskier and more dangerous tactics or to rely more heavily on criminal gangs and smugglers. The proposals are not so much undermining criminal activity as reinforcing it as the only available option for those seeking asylum in the UK.

If the government's goal is to deter migrants, then the policies to date have been a failure, and there is little reason to believe the new proposals will have more effect. If the goal is to prevent people using criminal gangs, then the problem has only been exacerbated. All the while the crossings are still happening and are actively being made more dangerous, at greater cost in human life, by the government's own policies. It is time for a reappraisal which looks again at serious multilateral approaches to refugees, which promotes safe routes for those in need, and which above all values human life and the dignity of vulnerable people.

Rt Revd Paul Butler *Bishop of Durham*

Rt Revd Jonathan Clark *Bishop of Croydon*

Rt Revd Sarah Mullally *Bishop of London*

Rt Revd Rachel Treweek *Bishop of Gloucester*

Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani *Bishop of Chelmsford*

Rt Revd Vivienne Faull *Bishop of Bristol*

Rt Revd David Walker *Bishop of Manchester*

Rt Revd John Perumbalath *Bishop of Bradwell*

Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin *Bishop of Dover*

Rt Revd Christopher Chessun *Bishop of Southwark*

Rt Revd Tony Robinson *Bishop of Wakefield*

Rt Revd David Hamid *Suffragan Bishop in Europe*

The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd
Dominic Doble**
Team Rector

The Rectory,
Highfield Road,
Halesworth, IP19 8SJ
Tel: 01986 948968
Mobile: 07743 554955
Email:
dominic.doble@
phonecoop.coop



**The Revd
Jane Held**
Assistant Curate

Oak Cottage,
The Street,
Rumburgh, IP19 0JX
Tel: 01986 781318
Mobile: 07771 556391
Email:
jane@janeheld.co.uk
(Off duty: Thurs & Fri)



**The Revd
Alison Alder**
Assistant Curate

Oakhurst, Blackheath Road
Wenhaston, IP19 9HD
Tel: 01502 478855
Mobile: 07584 416277
Email:
alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk
(On duty: Mon,
Tues & Wed)



**The Revd
Linda Berry**
Assistant Curate

Old Post Office,
The Street
Huntingfield, IP19 0PU
Tel: 01986 798165
Email:
revd.linda@huntingfield.uk
(Off duty: Thurs & Fri)

The Revd Vic Hopkins *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 875934
Email: csninefour@btinternet.com

The Revd David Sochon *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 781151
Email: davidsochon@googlemail.com

The Revd Anna Wright *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01502 478411
Email: wrightsphere@gmail.com

Fr Jonathan Olanczuk *Priest*
Tel: 01502 470079. Email: olanczuk@me.com

Diana Gardiner *Reader*
Tel: 01986 784174. Email: osmg.diana@gmail.com

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

Team Council Contacts

Geoffrey Kiddy: *Lay Chair of Team Council*
Tel: 01986 873173. Email: mail@wissettllodge.co.uk

Pedro Cockerton: *Team Treasurer*
Tel: 01986 873431. Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com

Carolyn Clarke: *Clerk to Team Council & Team Administrator.*
Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328.
Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	CONTACT
Blyford	Alison Cackett	01986 874442
Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Veronica Downing	01986 873184
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby John Ball	01986 873336 01986 874962
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevett	01986 875913 01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods	01986 781256
Thornington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478078
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

Karen Wynne Evans *Team Choir Director*
Tel: 01986 873431
Email: karen.wynne.evans@virgin.net

Jason Busby *Organist - Halesworth, Holton and Team*
Tel: 01986 873336. Mobile: 07817 863533
Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbyeeee

The time has come, the Walrus said... to wave farewell to the wonderful Team ministry that has nurtured and cared for me, supported me, laughed with me (and at me), got cross with me, and shared your love, faith, worship and lives with me for so very many years. We moved here in 2000, moved permanently here in 2002 and by 2003 I was on the PCC, and therein began a journey towards becoming a priest! I seem to have worn most hats at some point – PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Churchwarden, Lay Elder, Team Council Lay Chair... and then ordination.

I was definitely not planning to move, and even more so, move a long way away, but God's plans are not always our plans, and by hook or crook I was "tugged" into reading an advert, thinking about it and then visiting, thinking, applying and being offered a job that I felt is exactly where I am meant to be at this time. It will be very different. It is glorious very high Pennine countryside – near the highest village in England at 1500 feet. Winter tyres ARE on order! The Benefice of Butterton, Ipstones with Berkhamstych, and Onecote with Bradnop is right up at the top of Staffordshire

Peak District, between Leek and Ashbourne, above the Manifold Valley and Dovedale.

I will be the part time Priest in Charge on a three-year interim contract as the Benefice decides its future. I will be living in the Rectory (visitors welcome) during my working week, but coming back home here to Suffolk for my days off each week, as Emma is staying put. It's really, therefore, a part farewell as I will be around, but not as one of the Team. Needless to say, it will be unbelievably hard to wave goodbye, but wave I will, because I know that I am going to fulfil a calling based on what you have all given me over the years – what you have taught me in particular. It will never be the Blyth Valley – but the warmth, welcome, care, mutual support and joy I see daily here and throughout our communities, is at the heart of what we are and all are portable!! It will go with me. Watch out for the details of my last Team service – which is in early November. There is bound to be a bunfight! (My hanky is at the ready). And finally, thank you all for everything.




Regeneration Update



Well, Phase 1 is done and St Mary's Halesworth looks fabulous, and is already getting very well used, as well. We were going to furnish the aisle on the Market Square side with two sideboards, three café tables and a soft seating area, but when I actually saw the furniture we had chosen, it was just not quite right.

So we have decided to put all our energy into getting Phase 2 up and running and begin the fund raising to install two toilets, a kitchen servery and the buy the right furniture for a café and seating area.

To kick it off, I, ably assisted by that well-known young man and PCC member, Kingsley Ellif, did a Harley Davidson ride to

all 14 churches on September 11th. Kingsley's glorious Harley, *Cheryl 7* - bright yellow with a throaty roar - was pressed into service and he drove brilliantly – as if he had a dozen eggs in his pillion seat.

Needless to say, I was terrified until I got used to it and then enjoyed every single minute – any rumours about speeding are, of course, entirely erroneous. AND the best bit of all: due to the truly amazing generosity of everyone we have raised £1,200 to date and sponsorship is still coming in. I am blown away by your generosity. A huge big giant thank you to you all, and to Kingsley.



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Mobile: 07752 275328.

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

The Revd Peter Rayson

Wenhaston Methodist Church Minister

38 Ashburnham Way,

Carlton Colville NR33 8SJ

Tel: 01502 560178

Email: revpeterrayson@gmail.com

Jon Sermon

URC Minister

Halesworth & Bramfield URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP

Tel: 01986 873761

Email: jon@sermons.me.uk

Father Christopher Smith

Roman Catholic Priest

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,

Halesworth IP19 8SY

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

TEAM LAY ELDERS

Margaret Bloomfield	01502 478502	margaret@wrush.plus.com
Jason Busby	01986 873336	jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk
Alison Cackett	01986 874442	acackett@me.com
Robert Gamble	01502 478682	rwagamble@gmail.com
Malcolm Heath	01986 785289	mlheath@aol.com
John Hewlett	01986 875913	johnfhewlett@btinternet.com
Eileen Salmon	07938 199067	
Janet Walkey	01986 872594	janetwalkey@hotmail.com

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442

acackett@me.com

Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held

07771 556391

www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

A busier time at Bramfield this last month. Our regular Thursday morning services have a steady, loyal congregation and are much valued. Sundays are a bit more hit and miss. Sunday Worship may not be everyone's cup of tea these days.

We will be thinking about our pattern of services at the Team Away Day on September 25th – a report back in the November edition is highly likely but if anyone has views do let Dominic or Jane know.

We have re-opened the table with things to buy about the Church, to help our faltering income stream and June (as redoubtable as ever!) has organised tours and teas – valiantly aided by Robert and Jane and team. Bramfield is very much on the church tourist's trail and visitors really appreciate being able to visit freely.

The School is back and running well and the Queen's Head thriving. Andrew Niven keeps us updated on lots of village things with his famous (infamous) group emails so it feels almost as it was pre-lockdown.

On September 12th, we baptised Clementine Krystyna Ann Chantry, two years after we baptised her big brother Samuel. Adam and Eryka (her mum and dad) her godparents, family and friends were all there and we had a lovely time. Sadly the music would not work on my phone as the signal was too intermittent, but the congregation made up for that, joining in loudly in English and Polish. Such a joy!

The next joy is Harvest Festival. This will be at 10am on Sunday 10th October. Please come. It will be a light, joyful and thankful service.

Finally, this is the last time I will be

writing this column. We need a volunteer to take over please. I have a new role as Priest in Charge in a small rural benefice (three parishes, five villages, four churches) in the Staffordshire Peak District and I leave the Blyth Valley in early November, which will be very tough (even though the job is very exciting). I have loved being part of Bramfield life and will miss you all.

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk

On August 22nd we welcomed the Revd Dominic to church at St Mary's for Eucharist. It was great meeting him and we hope he and his wife, Liz, will be very happy here.

Sam Curtis's 90th Birthday

– very many happy returns!

90th birthday celebration for Sam
Julia Davison-Wilson writes:

Sam Curtis decided not to go to her weekly *Knit and Knatter* group in the School Room on August 24th as her family were on their way to celebrate her 90th birthday on the 25th. Unbeknown to her, when neighbour, Yvonne Watts insisted she attend, it

was because many neighbours and friends were gathered there with gifts, cards, cakes, Pimms and soft drinks for a surprise celebration. Sam was delighted and very surprised. She enjoyed chatting as people took it in turns to sit next to her and wish her a happy birthday. Edward Wilson congratulated her and husband Barry (who died in 2020) on having lived in Chediston and for being part of village life for 40 years firstly in Shop Row but mainly at Cheribean, Church Cottages. Thank you to Yvonne for organising the afternoon.

Sarah (nee Downing) and Joe Parker's wedding

– Sunday 29 August

It was lovely to hear the bells ringing once again at St Mary's Church, Chediston on Bank Holiday Monday in glorious celebration of Sarah (nee Downing) and Joe's wedding. Many congratulations to the happy couple! We wish them every happiness and best of luck for their future life together.

A quarter-peal was rung by talented members of Sarah's family, pictured below.

From Facebook:

Former Chediston resident David Mantell saved the life of a drowning woman in the Thames!

David reports on his brave rescue...

Friday 19th August. I was walking with



my wife along the Thames path adjacent to the bridge at Abingdon. After a short while another walker alerted us to someone in difficulties in the river. A woman had fallen in and had luckily managed to cling on to a tree branch overhanging the water but about 3m or 4m from the bank. I called the emergency services, but before they could arrive the woman became very distressed and her head was getting lower in the water. It was clear that she was giving up and time was of the essence before she drowned. I stripped off shoes and top and dived in and swam to her. The river was amazingly deep, fast flowing and cold, but I managed to support the woman keeping her head above the waterline. Eventually a couple of boats came to our aid and the woman was pulled towards and into a boat. I couldn't haul myself on to the boat so swam back to shore. By this time all the emergency services had arrived in large numbers including a BBC film crew.

The woman was treated by paramedics and put on oxygen and taken to hospital. I was told that she would have drowned had she not been rescued promptly. The police kindly escorted me back to my car and offered to drive me home.

I have now heard that although the NHS will not inform me or the police upon the condition of the woman (patient confidentiality), the police have said that if she had passed away, they would have been informed, so hopefully she survived.

Touchingly my daughter wrote on

Facebook 'Yesterday you put a stranger's life ahead of your own meaning they got to see another day. Whilst others sat and watched, your actions actually achieved the greatest thing ever. Mega proud to call you my Dad and the girls' Grandad'.

My leisurely walk in Abingdon turned out to be rather adventurous!

The photo below was taken at the scene as I was wrapped in a blanket by the ambulance crew!

So no problems in 20 years in Chediston. Move here and knocked off my bike, my car damaged in a car park and now this!

Sarah Carman

We were all very sorry to hear of Sarah's accident whilst catching someone else's loose dog. She is now thankfully on the mend after a week in hospital but unfortunately for Harriet, Arthur and Clemmie their holidays were somewhat disrupted, but the two grannies came to the rescue, not to mention Jonathan!

"Ride and Stride" Bike Ride – Saturday 11th September

On a lovely sunny day, we welcomed 28 people to St Mary's, Chediston – one of the biggest numbers we have seen. John Parson, David and Fiona Sanderson rode on our behalf and we thank them for their efforts.

Many thanks also to all those who sat in the church to welcome the visitors and provided the much appreciated refreshments.

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336

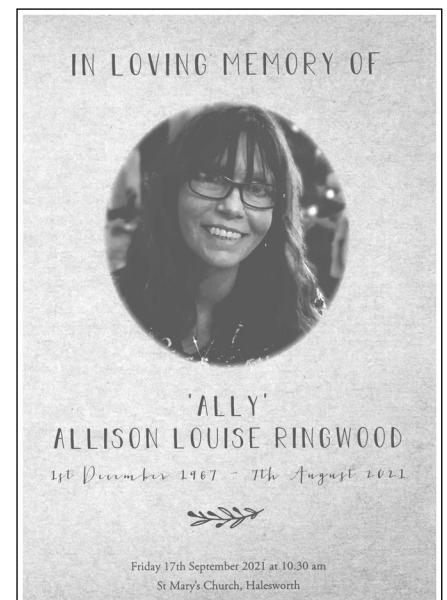
Firstly I must publicly apologise to Carolyn my article was four days late (again), sorry Carolyn. (*Carolyn - no probs Jason, thank you!*).

Although the occasion was solemn and reflective, we welcomed Ian and Ann Byrne, Tony and Tina Norton and a string of stalwarts of St Mary's to celebrate the life of Margaret Deering on 27th August. We sang *O Jesus, I have promised; And now, O Father, mindful of the love; O perfect Love, all human thoughts transcending* with Psalm 150 and a reading from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. Margaret, now reunited with Alan, rest in peace and rise in glory.

The funeral service of 'Ally' or Allison Louise Ringwood took place on September 17th.

Ally was just 54 years old and died of cancer. Her daughters and family spoke of a truly inspirational woman who had a real zest for life and fought cancer head on. No hymns were sung but lots of music by Lewis Capaldi, Ed Sheeran and Leona Lewis and this poem which I hadn't come across before was read...

"If we could have a lifetime wish, a dream that would come true, we'd pray to God with all our hearts for yesterday and you. A thousand words can't bring you back; we know because we've tried. Neither will a thousand tears; we know because we've cried. You left behind our broken hearts and happy memories too, but we never wanted memories, we only wanted you".



Now who needs an excuse for a party? Well, I do for one! I am very lucky to have two mothers, what would I, and we, do without Gwen and Simon?

Once again they gave up their time and helped me clean/prep/paint/move furniture and set up the outer south aisle. With just the radiators to be plumbed back in, the first phase of the Regeneration project is complete.

This is where I'm going to go all soft and emotional and speak about Jane. These past years and particularly the past 18 months, Jane has been a driving force in seeing the first instalment of work completed in St Mary's. Yes, a small army of helpers have tagged along for the ride, but what we see in St Mary's now is certainly a fair parting gift, leaving us in God's glory in a rejuvenated and loved St Mary's.

The news of Jane leaving us and moving to the Diocese of Lichfield will leave an enormous hole in the life of the BVTM.

Jane, from us all at St Mary's, THANK YOU. Let's fit in a party or two or three before you are licensed on December 7th. Generous God, help Jane to treasure the memories of the place she leaves behind, bless and protect the friends from whom Jane now parts, and give her confidence to reach out in hospitality to others in her new community. May your Spirit travel with her, and meet us in the faces of new friends. For our journey, now and throughout our lives, begins and ends with you, Lord, whose praises we sing wherever we make our home. Jane this is not a goodbye, just a see you soon xx



Advanced Notice – The PCC is very excited to announce that on Saturday 13th November in the evening, The Pakefield Singers will be performing Mozart's Requiem. With a 70-strong choir and Tim Patience on the organ. Please put this date in your diary NOW. This will be the first concert in St Mary's for a few years. We look forward to

welcoming visitors and yourselves to the concert.

NEW TECHNOLOGY – Long story short. We applied to be part of the pilot scheme launched by the Diocese and out of 75 churches across Suffolk which applied only 30 can take part, and we have been selected. The prize?? A contactless giving station. You will find on the north aisle, a contactless giving station which looks like this...



With more than 49% of giving to the Church nationally now by the Parish Giving Scheme and contactless giving we need to move with the times. According to the statistics we are all carrying less cash but more plastic. We now have the means in St Mary's to accept contactless donations in three easy steps. Thanks go to the Diocese for approving our application. The pilot is for one year.

Stay safe everyone and see you next month with pictures and reports from the Heritage Open Weekend.

We will continue to live stream ALL services from St Mary's on Zoom and Facebook.

Dominic has plans to bring back the Wednesday morning 10am Eucharist and 8am BCP Sunday service, perhaps as soon as November.

There's lots going on and coming up at St Mary's!

ST MARY'S RECEIPTS FOR AUGUST

Planned giving £852; Gift aid £162; Fees £151; Sum up £5; Masterclass £50; Donation for CD player £179.

HALESWORTH WI

Our first get together since the lockdown got off to a rousing start with members being entertained by the "Rumpus Ukulele group", we enjoyed singing and clapping along to their exuberant music and they finished to a resounding burst of applause.

Meeting at a new venue, The Rifle Hall, at a new time and on a new day, Thursday afternoons at 2pm. We welcomed members old and new, as we look forward to future planned events.

Our September meeting will be an opportunity to meet a family of tortoises followed by a talk on "Medical Detection Dogs" in October.

We hope to be able to offer refreshments at future meetings. BP

Heveningham

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held

07771 556391

We welcomed Revd Dominic to his first service with us in early September. His wife, Liz, was there, and she took some lovely photos of the church, capturing the stained glass east window beautifully.

The PCC also met with Dominic this month.

On October 10th we are holding our Harvest Festival in Church at 6.30pm. As part of a very rural community it's a very important service celebrating our agricultural life as much as anything else.

Having only just started writing for this column, I am sadly stopping after this entry, so any volunteers from Heveningham to keep it going would be amazingly helpful. I have a new role as Priest in Charge in a small rural benefice (three parishes, five villages, four churches) in the Staffordshire Peak District and I leave the Blyth Valley in early November which will be very tough (even though the job is very exciting). I have loved being part of the relatively newly formed cluster and look forward to seeing it grow and thrive.

Holton

Temporary Correspondent

John Hewlett 01986 875913

johnhewlett@btinternet.com

SHCT Cycle Ride

Jim and I would like to thank everyone who sponsored us. We visited just ten of the Blyth Valley places of worship. We only managed an afternoon ride, as

the morning was taken up by a visit from our grandson Quinn, who had just completed his first week at school, so we couldn't miss the catch-up!

Our first call was Holton Church. We noted about ten other cyclists had signed in before us. (By the end of the day, Holton had 20 on their list) We did an anti-clockwise circuit travelling to Holton, Spexhall, Wissett, Chediston, Halesworth, Wenhaston and Blyford, cunningly taking in three at Halesworth and two at Wenhaston. We enjoyed it very much and hope that the money raised will help pay for any future repairs to St Peter's and other Suffolk Churches. **Jackie Watts**

Holton & Blyford Village Hall Tote

Winners of the Tote for August were as follows:

1st prize, £25, Helen Fenson; 2nd prize, £15, Gerry Walker; 3rd prize, £10, Colin White; 4th prize, £5, Dennis Baile.

And for September:

1st prize, £25, Gerry Walker; 2nd prize, £15, Janice Broom; 3rd prize, £10, Anne and Richard Pymar; 4th prize, £5, Colin Hicks.

Congratulations to all our winners.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have sent their good wishes for Jill's recovery after surgery on September 12th. She was soon home again, and is improving slowly, with every expectation for a full recovery.

John Hewlett

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

My goodness, these months go by quickly don't they? Just when I thought I could sit down and watch an episode of 'Escape to the Country' an email arrives from Carolyn saying that the deadline for our *BVTimes* article is imminent. So when I have put my cup of tea to one side my next thought is... but we haven't done anything since the last article! On reflection we have packed quite a lot in, so here goes...

Saturday 11th September proved to be a busy one for us, it was our planned

'Clear up the churchyard' day, Ride and Stride, and to top it all, a wedding as well. Our first 'rider' appeared at 9.06am having cycled from Fressingfield. The florists preparing the church for the wedding were amazed by the array of lycra that came through the door in quick succession. Outside our churchyard 'clearers' were doing a grand job in making everything look so spic and span, of course fuelled by supplies of coffee and cake. As midday approached the gardening tools were put away, the Ride and Stride check-in table moved outside to a quiet corner of the churchyard and the bellringers arrived to ring the bells. The sun shone and once again we heard the bells, what a joy. We were once again reminded that it is the simple things in life that mean so much; the smell of freshly mown grass, the dappled sunlight and the sound of church bells... Heavenly.

At the time of writing my column, this coming weekend we are hosting our Harvest Supper in The Hub, it looks like it's going to be a fun evening with lots of people signing up for a seat at the table including Dominic and Liz. By the end of September Dominic should be feeling like a local, as he will be back on Saturday 25th for the BVTM Team Development Day at The Hub and he will then be taking our Eucharist service on Sunday 26th September at 10am in St Mary the Virgin, Huntingfield.

Welcome Dominic!

In the month of October we have two events planned. The first being a 'Roaming Dinner' on Friday 8th October. Starting at the Church at 6.15pm there will be wine, juice and canapes on offer. The main course will be served at the Huntingfield Arms and finally dessert at the Hub. If you would like to be part of the evening please book and pay through the pub. On Sunday 10th October at 10am we will be holding our Harvest Festival. Everyone is welcome and all harvest donations of fresh and ambient food will be passed to the Community Larder.

This month we met as a PCC with numerous items on the agenda as usual. Like the rest of the world, we have to address the issue of 'Contactless payments'. How quickly we have moved on from the days

when our dad's pockets used to jingle with the delightful sound of loose change to now having a wallet full of plastic cards.

Well we have set up a working party to investigate the world of Broadband providers, Tap and Go devices and all such other mysteries... watch this space I will keep you updated.

Now... where's my remote control?

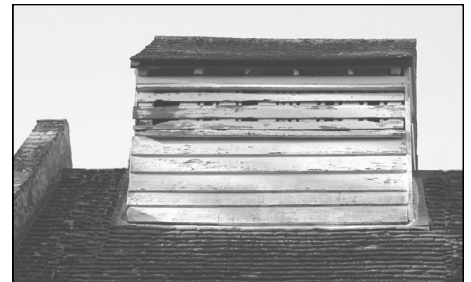
Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

I HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED THAT strange device, the cherry picker with a degree of awe. They resemble, far too closely for my liking, a beast from a Jurassic nightmare. Having now seen one in use close-to, I have to admit that they are a very impressive piece of machinery. I'm not sure how effective they are for picking cherries but the church hired one for a week and transformed our belfry from this:



To this:



Being Linstead, you will not be in the least bit surprised to know that we have bats in our belfry. Our small but perfectly formed colony of *Stokorensis Transylvaniae*, (not to mention the rather vulgar and very messy *Pipistrellus Pipistrellus*) will still be free to come and go as they wish but squirrels and rooks will find it a little more difficult. Our heartfelt thanks go to our cherry-picker pilot, cum carpenter, cum decorator, Derek Keable for masterminding the project. He even

found time to repair some broken roof tiles.

HOWEVER IT IS NOT ALL GOOD NEWS because at our most recent PCC meeting it was decided, not to hold our Harvest Supper again this year. We felt that Covid is still too active to risk holding a full-blown indoor function, with food and general socialising. We hope for better things next year. We will however be holding our Harvest Festival, with masks and social distancing.

THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE EASIEST farming year but the weather ameliorated at just the right time. Let us not forget that this year and every year, in spite of the skill of our farmers and their amazing modern equipment, a good harvest is dependant on influences outside our control, so it is right and proper that we should give thanks.

**WE WILL BE WELCOMING
OUR TEAM RECTOR,
THE REVD DOMINIC DOBLE**

**To his first service at Linstead.
Let us have a good turnout on this
important occasion.**

**THE LINSTAD
HARVEST FESTIVAL**

to be held on

**SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER
at 6.30pm
Please wear masks**

DO YOU WANT TO KEEP St Margaret's open? That is the key question. The effect of having to cancel some of our regular fundraising events, over the last two years, has created quite a hole in our finances. That being the case, the PCC has decided to launch an appeal by sending a letter out to every household in the parish, inviting donations, preferably in the form of regular standing orders. It is over ten years since we last did this and in the meantime people have moved away or, sadly, passed away, so it is time to issue a fresh appeal. If you want to keep the church open, available, not only for regular worship but also for those special occasions, baptism, marriage and, inevitably, funerals, then we need your support. So, when the appeal arrives, please give generously.

TO ENCOURAGE DONATIONS AND TO concentrate minds, we are holding:

**THE LINSTAD
GIFT DAY
SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER
from 10am to 4pm
Light refreshments
Chat
And Donating!**

THE ANNUAL SUFFOLK HISTORIC Churches bike ride took place on schedule this year and we are very grateful to Vicky Wilkinson, who organised it for Linstead and took the lion's share of church-sitting.

VICKY WILKINSON WRITES:

As I was unable to participate actively in the Ride and Stride this year I let my mind do the travelling and revisited some of the lovely Suffolk churches I have been to in the past years. I want to thank those who kindly sponsored me in this meditative exercise to raise money for Linstead Church and The Suffolk Heritage Churches Trust, and to those who shared church sitting duties with me on the day.

It was great to catch sight of the Revving Revd with surplice streaming, and in danger of becoming airborne. Who said she was unflappable!

WE MAY HAVE HAD TO CANCEL OUR Harvest Supper but we hope that our next regular event will be held on schedule:

**LINSTEAD COMES TO
HALESWORTH**

LINSTEAD MARKET

will be held at:

**ST MARY'S CHURCH ON
SATURDAY 27th
NOVEMBER
10am to 1pm**

**Christmas Gifts,
Food and Decorations
Raffle
Seasonal Refreshments**

Please note that we are in the newly refurbished St Mary's itself, not the church hall.

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD WI MET IN September and heard Norfolk Naturalist, Tony Brown talk about the life and work of a pioneer Norfolk naturalist, Arthur Henry Patterson (1957-1935), whose main interest was in the wildlife of Breydon Water. It was, I am told a fascinating talk and was followed by refreshments, another small step towards normality.

They meet next at Linstead village Hall, on Tuesday October 12th at 2.30pm. The speaker is Lucy Bellafontaine who will be talking about the work of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute. She will also be bringing some articles for sale in aid of the Institute.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER COMPRISE the Harvest Festival on the 3rd (see box) and Matins on the 17th at 9.30am. (tbc)

ROTAS FOR OCTOBER

DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING

3rd	Harvest Festival, General help required.
10th	No Service
17th	Mrs P Keable & Mr D Keable
24th	No Service
31st	No Service

Spexhall

Correspondents

**Janet and David Sochon
davidsochon@gmail.com**

Just as we thought that the pandemic had been suppressed sufficiently for services to recommence in church... the lights went out – literally. The electrical system was condemned as unsafe and the various estimates have put the repair bill at something over £6,000.

It was decided to start an appeal in faith, and, as usual the Lord provided several generous donations so that most of the cost can be met, and there is now light at the end of the tunnel, as it were, and at the end of the year.

The Harvest Festival supper will be

shared by the Village Hall committee and church on either October 15th or 16th (date to be confirmed shortly) with a "family friendly" quiz. If the event is as much fun as usual, it will be well worth booking a ticket.

The Harvest Festival service, with Dominic presiding, will go ahead in church as planned on October 17th since there will be enough heavenly light at that time of year.

Once again, generous donors have come to our aid and enabled the task of refurbishing the War Memorial to be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday.

There is a small residue in the fund which will be put towards renovating the memorial and flags inside church. Our grateful thanks are due to all who provided so generously.

The news of Jane's impending departure for the Peak District came as something of a shock.

Her boundless energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed, but she goes with our love and blessings as she responds to God's call in "fresh woods and pastures new". Lucky Lichfield! Little do her small country parishes in Staffordshire know what is coming to them... we hope they are ready for the shock and well-insured against whirlwinds!

What should we have been able to do here in the Blyth Valley without her indefatigable efforts and organisational skills?

We shall still continue to see her around as she will be spending only part of the week in the Midlands while based here.

Thorington

Correspondent Viv Burns

With the changing colours of the hedgerows, and the newly cultivated fields we are reminded of how September is the time of gathering and foraging what grows in our fields and gardens.

We normally get together to celebrate and contemplate our good fortune in our local churches.

I am reminded of how we decorate the building with fruits and berries from the hedgerows and enjoy the smell of baskets of newly picked apples and other garden produce that has been donated for distribution to foodbanks.

Harvest time is very special, and symbolic of our abundance.

we settle down by the fireside in the evenings, we invite you to join with us for our annual *Two St Peter Churches Quiz* which takes place on October 22nd in the Village Hall, at 7pm for 7.30pm. We are charging £4 each for tables of four people and there will be the usual bar and raffle. We are very grateful to Phil and Denise Corbett for once again running this for the church. Application forms will be available from the Post Office.

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

3rd	Team Service at Halesworth at 10am
10th	Eucharist 10am
17th	Pause for Thought 10am
24th	Morning Worship 10am
31st	Team Service at Halesworth 10am

WENHASTON M U

We all enjoyed having the Revd Margaret Rennard with us at our September meeting and we all appreciated her very interesting and informative Talk. Margaret told us about decision to become a Prison Chaplain firstly in Lincolnshire and then, when Edward became the Team Rector in the Blyth Valley, she worked first at and then at Hollesley Bay. We were all grateful to Margaret for joining us.

Hopefully our Speaker in October (13th) will be a representative from Age UK. The meeting will be in our new "Home" the Methodist Chapel School Room and will commence at 2.30pm. We hope that members of Halesworth MU will continue to join us.

Margaret G

Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

margaret@wrush.plus.com

It came as quite a shock to hear that our Revd Jane is leaving us. We will surely miss her, but wish her every blessing in her new post. Jane will be leaving the Blyth Valley Team in November and will be licensed in her new benefice on December 7th. Our love and prayers will go with her.

Harvest Festival is over for another year, the nights are pulling in and winter is waiting in the wings. Before

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WENHASTON WALKS

On Tuesday 5th October a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

On Tuesday 19th October, Ian Bigwood will lead a walk starting at 10am from the Poacher's Pocket, Carlton (near Saxmundham). The circular walk will take us through Carlton, Kelsale and part of Saxmundham and will conclude with lunch at the pub; more on this by e-mail in due course.

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

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wissett

Correspondent Nick Evans

01986 872372

nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

Sometimes a churchwarden receives an unexpected and unusually interesting telephone call. A lady in the Welsh Marches who is the leading expert on the decoration of kneelers, has created

a website: *parishkneelers.co.uk* and is writing a book on the subject: "Would it be all right if she sent a photographer to record some of ours?" Naturally, with pleasure, and in due course the pig, the oil rig, and the badge of the 9th Jat Regiment have been recorded. *Is the term hassock rather outmoded? Or does it still, properly, refer to bigger, rougher, more rustic objects than our nice blue tapestried 'kneelers'?*

Once again, Wissett had just a single representative in the Historic Churches Bike Ride, and with the help of Greater Anglia, he made a delightful tour of the Wilford area, which has some remote but lovingly maintained churches some of which were certainly equipped with hassocks.

This year all he visited were open, a great improvement on last year's disappointing trip to a different part of the East Suffolk Line.

Meanwhile, back at home, large numbers of riders visited Wissett, and one athletic runner from The Saints who had already covered 15 kilometres. And on the same day, our Gift Day, a total of about £2000 was left in the ancient alms dish on the altar.

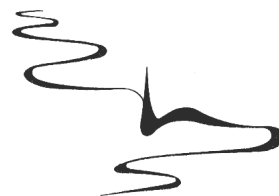
The Village Barbecue was a great


success in spite of indifferent weather. People clearly wanted to get together again, and there were more than eighty of us sitting in the churchyard, disregarding the intermittent drizzle.

At that stage the annual weather conflict was in full swing: too damp for the crops and too dry for the gardens.

The rota for next month can be found on page 3 of this edition of *BVTimes*, services will continue in the regular pattern at 10am, and we have the Team Eucharist here on 31st October.

The evenings will be dark then, candlelight coming into its own, and so an early reminder that we have our **Commemoration of the Departed on All Souls Day, Tuesday 2nd November**, the first of the atmospheric winter gatherings.





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

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

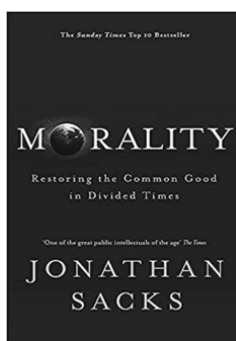
Now and then I wonder if there is any other language than English that has the facility for memorable and meaningful acronyms: we cheat a bit at times, adding an extra a to COBR (Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms) to make the familiar COBRA which trips so easily off the tongue these days, and then there is the delightful SAGE, the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies - we certainly hope the members are sage sages! (def.1: one, such as a profound philosopher, distinguished for wisdom. 2: a mature or venerable person of sound judgment.).

And then there is JOY, both acronym and mnemonic, that we learnt in Sunday School, perhaps, as a framework for an orderly pray time and indeed a guide for the Christian life.

J Jesus

O Others

Y Yourself



This sprang to mind as I was reading the late Jonathan Sacks' last book *Morality: restoring the common good in divided times*, although he expressed it a little differently!

When did the "we", the community we were created for, become "I"?

This shift has had a profound impact on society and the way in which we interact with each other. Traditional values no longer hold, yet recent

political swings show that modern ideals of tolerance have left many feeling rudderless and adrift. In this environment we see things fall apart in unexpected ways - toxic public discourse makes true societal progress almost unattainable, a more divisive society is fuelled by identity politics and extremism, and the rise of a victimhood mentality calls for 'safe spaces' but stifles debate. The influence of social media seems all-pervading and the breakdown of the family is only one result of the loss of social capital. Many fear what the future may hold.

(From the blurb:) "Delivering a devastatingly insightful critique of our modern condition, and assessing its roots and causes from the ancient Greeks through the Reformation and Enlightenment to the present day, Sacks argues that there is no liberty without morality, and no freedom without responsibility.

If we care about the future of western civilisation, all of us must play our part in rebuilding our common moral foundation. Then we will discover afresh the life-transforming and counterintuitive truths that a nation is strong when it cares for the weak, and rich when it cares for the poor." Amen to that.

Bag a bargain



Summer, and our summer sale may be over, but you can still bag a bargain: this month it's *The mountains bow down*

I'm used to forensic pathologists and forensic archaeologists, even forensic anthropologists in the novels I enjoy, but the lead character in this novel is a forensic geologist, a new one on me, so had to be read!

On what should have been a dream cruise around Alaska with her mother and aunt the heroine's holiday is sunk by a suicide that's probably murder, family rifts, a complicated relationship with a handy FBI agent, consultation for a film crew on board and discovering a mystery so daunting that, well, even the mountains might bow down before it!

Suspend disbelief and this is an enjoyable novel with a well-rounded heroine, and some humour. Enjoyable holiday reading, even on a cruise!

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

FOR ALL TEACHERS

A former sergeant in the Marines took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back. He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fitted under his shirt and wasn't noticeable.

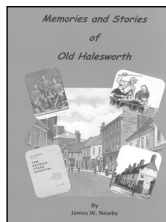
On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence... the rest of the year went very smoothly.

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entrance to Halesworth Cemetery on Holton Road
and also at Rosedale Funeral Services in the
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Friends of St Mary's - St Mary The Virgin Church Halesworth

- A little bit of history

Gradual lifting of restrictions bring a welcome return of extra-curricular activities in our communities. The *BVTimes* promotes the return of the *dementia* Carers' Fund regular films at The Cut, along with singing and an art group for carers and their loved ones. The Mothers' Union promises a mixed bag of events, walkers were invited to stride out during *The Great Big Green Week* in September and, hopefully, it will not be too long before St Mary's bells are ringing regularly again. Other attractions just gone, or to come, are *Brass on the Grass* at Reydon, the Suffolk Historic Churches Ride & Stride, boot sales, harvest festivals, bring & buy, home-made marmalade. And not least, the marvellous Halesworth Heritage *happening* with the amazing celebration of St Mary's mediaeval heritage in flowers and music, and a new Argentein trail outside and inside the church, with new information on the intriguing shields partly hidden by the organ.

And what if we look back in *St Mary's Church, Halesworth, Parish Magazine* at what was happening 60 years ago? The magazine at the time had a central insert with *St Edmundsbury & Ipswich News of the Diocese*, and the outer pages with St Mary's news. Regular meetings are shown of the Mothers' Union, the St Mary's Young Wives Group, the Working Party (presumably for the upkeep of the church and grounds), and the Men's Group. There seems no mention of any children's groups. The ubiquitous jumble sale is promised with admission at 3d (pre-decimal money), and a sale of work with a fancy goods and needlework stall and a cake and

sweet stall – proceeds to go towards the repairs shortly to be carried out in the north side of the church.

Also present are records of 'Hatches, Matches and Dispatches'; this phrase dating from around 1859-63 often in *The Times* and *Punch*, along with the alternative, 'Cradle, Altar and Tomb' column in some newspapers. So, the holy baptism of Tracey Jane Phipps is recorded for 26 April 1964, the wedding of John Larman Haward & Eileen Rose Barham is recorded for 7th October 1961 and the burial of Charles Henry Bathurst Trollope, aged 85 years, on 16th January 1962.

And, in the central part of the magazine with the news of the diocese, is an intriguing little story entitled 'The Envelope', episodes of which appear over several months in 1963-64. A summary for new readers says, "An anonymous gift of £1000 has caused much controversy in the parish. Old Martha Blount dies, and is supposed to have left about £1000 which cannot be found. Her relatives think it has been stolen. The Vicar appeals for the donor to come forward; a parishioner, Eric Jones, collapses when he hears this, but later declares he did not steal the money. At a whist drive, an invalid lady, Mrs Knight, wins a prize of a basket of groceries, and in it is found – Martha Blount's money-bag, empty." Frustratingly, the Halesworth & District Museum has no more copies of the parish magazine, so the end of the story is unknown! How often, as we pass through life, do we never hear the end of stories that touch our lives.

Jenny Janes



LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN SEPTEMBER

BAPTISMS

Clementine Krystyna Ann Chantry at Bramfield
Eila Rose Sadd at Holton

WEDDINGS / BLESSINGS

William Harrison and Alexandra Luck at Huntingfield

FUNERALS / BURIAL OF ASHES

August: Margaret Violet Deering at Halesworth
September:

Donald Anthony James Watt at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough
Cerelina Guingo Lee at Holton
Raymond Frank Riordan at Halesworth Cemetery
Roger Graham Moulson at Holton
Allison Louise Ringwood at Halesworth
Audrey Worth at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough
Bertie Frederick Fulcher at Walpole

LORDS OF THE MANOR OF HALESWORTH

The carving of Sir William Allington has been recently discovered in the Argentine Chapel, to the East side of the North facing arch quite close to floor level, the position making it vulnerable to damage. (This was the last carving to be added to the family collection, so no other space available). The mouth and most of the jaw is missing and perhaps, also a headdress. However we can see a broad face with wide set eyes, and a man of some elegance. We imagine the sculptor was working from a charcoal sketch, and for this sitting Sir William was newly coiffed and dressed in well-tailored fashionable clothes of the period. He became Lord of the Manor in 1424, the year after Sir William Argentine's grandson and heir, died. His Lordship was determined by an arrangement of marriage to the young Argentine granddaughter and heiress, Joan. Thus the blood lines were forged as a new dynasty, 'The Allingtons,' replaced 'The Argentines'. It was to last almost as long - nearly three centuries.

At the West end of the church in the ringing chamber, you will find the head stone of Sir William Argentine, placed there as his signature to the tower building project, completed circa 1415. This is on the archway leading to the tower staircase. The sculptor has captured a rugged persona in a characterful face which may well have lent itself, over the years, to being a lucky touchstone for those climbing the tower; the nose is well rubbed.

Halesworth Church has a wealth of sculptured heads, inside and outside the building, and they all have a history to tell; there are royal heads, knights of the realm, church wardens, African heads marking the abolition of slavery, amongst others. Some are Mediaeval, others Victorian. As I write, this we are on the final countdown to Halesworth Heritage Open Days. The weather outlook is good - HAPPILY, -since the programme includes many outdoor activities. The materials prepared, including an audio tour, 'The Argentine Trail', are available if you want have a heritage browse at some later point. The link to the latter is on the Friends' website - so do bring your ear pods and phone with you, if you come with that purpose in mind.

www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth/events

A Wilkinson, for Friends of St Mary's

Lords of the Manor of Halesworth captured in stone. Having a likeness of oneself crafted in stone, and attached to a building, certainly assures a lasting presence and identification with that building. Such is the case with the two mediaeval Lords of the manor of Halesworth, pictured here. They share a Christian name; how much else do they have in common?



Sir William Allington 1397-1459 Sir William Argentine 1350-

LOCAL NEWS

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

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