

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

January 2023

Volume 44

Issue 1

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023

The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is traditionally observed from January 18th to 25th – the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

For this *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Through this resource, the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

The resources are available here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/>

As we join with other Christians around the world for the *Week of Prayer*, we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Each year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

All gatherings are in Halesworth at 12.30pm:

Wednesday 18th Jan at the Police Station.

Thursday 19th Jan at the Town Hall.

Friday 20th Jan at Edgar Sewter (to be confirmed).

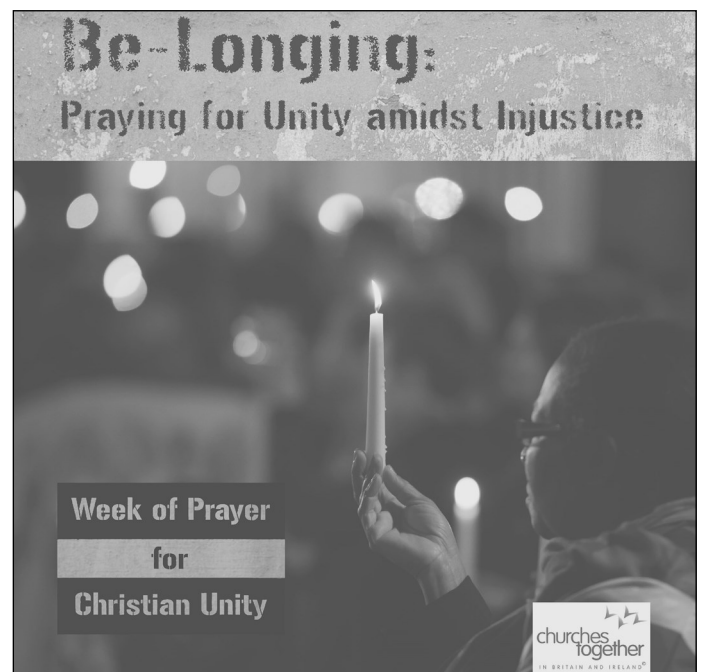
Saturday 21st Jan at the Thoroughfare.

Sunday 22nd Jan at the Skatepark.

Monday 23rd Jan at the Pear Tree Centre near the Doctors' surgery.

Tuesday 24th Jan at the Museum by the Railway station.

Wednesday 25th Jan at the Arboretum.



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Blyford - Bramfield - Chediston - Cookley - Halesworth - Heveningham with Ubbeston - Holton - Huntingfield - Linstead - Spexhall - Thorington - Walpole - Wenhaston - Wissett.

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

JANUARY 2023 Lectionary – White**Sunday 1st**

Traditional Communion – Sunday After Christmas

Galatians 4: 1 – 7 (KJV)

Matthew 1: 18 – 25 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Numbers 6: 22 – 27 (NRSV)

Luke 2: 15 – 21 (NRSV)

Sunday 8th

Traditional Communion – The Epiphany

Ephesians 3: 1 – 12 (KJV)

Matthew 2: 1 – 12 (KJV)

Holy Communion – The Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 (NRSV)

Matthew 2: 1 – 12 (NRSV)

Sunday 15th

Traditional Communion – Second After Epiphany

Romans 12: 6 – 16 (KJV)

John 2: 1 – 11 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Second of Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1 – 7 (NRSV)

John 1: 29 – 42 (NRSV)

Sunday 22nd

Traditional Communion – Third After Epiphany

Romans 12: 16 – end (KJV)

Matthew 8: 1 – 13 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Third of Epiphany

Isaiah 9: 1 – 4 (NRSV)

Matthew 4: 12 – 23 (NRSV)

Sunday 29th

Traditional Communion – Fourth After

Romans 13: 1 – 7 (KJV)

Matthew 8: 23 – end (KJV)

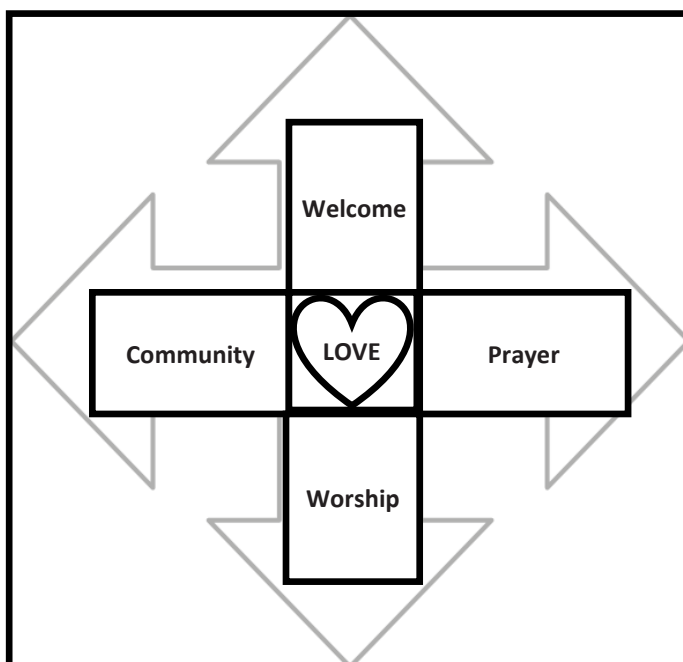
Holy Communion – The Presentation/
Candlemas

Malachi 3: 1 – 5 (NRSV)

Luke 2: 22 – 40 (NRSV)

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**VISIT THE BLYTH VALLEY
TEAM MINISTRY WEBSITE:**

**www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk
for Service details and local events etc**



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

LIFE EVENTS**FROM THE REGISTERS IN DECEMBER
FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES**

Anne Sylvia Nicholson at Waveney Crematorium

John Raymond Palmby at Halesworth

Dorothy Iris Pymar at Halesworth

Joan Muggleton at Waveney Crematorium

Sheila Francis at Wenhaston

Marlene Spence at Wenhaston

Worship in the Blyth Valley in January 2023					
CW – Year A Continuous White	1st CW – Naming & Circumcision	8th CW & BC The Epiphany	15th CW & BCP Second of/After Epiphany	22nd CW & BCP Third of/After Epiphany	29th CW – The Presentation/ Candlemas BCP Fourth After
Halesworth St Mary	10am Holy Communion Gini	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Traditional Communion Linda 6pm Evensong Dominic		8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Alison 6pm Evensong Dominic	10am Holy Communion Dominic
St Peter Group					
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer David	10am Iona Worship Janet	10am Holy Communion Linda	
Wenhaston St Peter			10am Holy Communion Alison	10am Pause for Thought Diana	
Bramfield St Andrew		10am Holy Communion Alison			
Blyford All Saints			10am Morning Prayer Dominic		
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer Alison C	
St Andrew Group					
Wissett St Andrew		10am Plough Sunday Diana	10am Holy Communion Gini	10am Breakfast Church Vic	
Chediston St Mary		10am Morning Prayer Veronica		10am Morning Prayer Veronica	
Spexhall St Peter			10am Holy Communion Linda		
Linstead St Margaret				10am Holy Communion Dominic	
St Michael Group					
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Jonathan		
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Holy Communion Dominic			
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Morning Prayer David	
Walpole St Mary		10am Morning Prayer Vic			

Additional Services:

9.30am Thursdays, Morning Worship, St Andrew Bramfield.

Friday 6th January, 6.30pm, Epiphany Service of Light, St Andrew Wissett – Dominic

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

JANUARY 2023

8th The Revd Clive Sutcliffe
15th The Revd Pam Bayliss
22nd The Revd Ian McKillop
29th The Revd Robert Soanes

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Please enquire about our Service times and details



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,
from Tuesdays to Saturdays

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

On Mondays with the Revd Gini Williams

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

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

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

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

Gathered worship **Sundays 11am** – (10.30am for
refreshments).

Sundays: Zoom Worship @ 11am (join from
10.30am)

Tuesday lunchtimes: 30 minute worship @ 12.30pm
(@ Lowestoft and usually also on Zoom)

**Tuesdays after school, alternate
weeks**



Every Friday: Prayer meeting @
9.45am. **Note:** Usually in the building
and Zoom - **Then coffee from
10.30am**

**New Wednesday evening Home
Group – alternate weeks**

Specific include:

Sun 8th Jan Gathered in the church building (and on
Zoom). **Also 3pm at Bramfield Chapel**

Sun 15th Jan Gathered in the church building (and
on Zoom)

Sun 22nd Jan Gathered in the church building (and
on Zoom)

Sun 29th Jan Gathered in the church building (and
on Zoom)

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



Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

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

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

From the Rector...

As you read this, Christmas may seem a long time ago, although you may still have cards and trees up! Don't forget, it's not just about memories. Christmas will have its consequences for all of us too. You may be waiting in anticipation to use your new motorcycle gloves, or try out your new rose gold hair straighteners. You may be needing to look for the Slimmers' World telephone number (other diets are available!) or apologise to your children for the effect of that one sprout/glass too many!

In many ways, the consequences are what Epiphany is all about. The church season runs for the twelve days that link Christmas as celebrated in the western church with Christmas as celebrated in the east. Catholics use the Julian calendar, Orthodox the Gregorian. Those reasons, like memories, may have been forgotten - if ever known - by the rest of us. They may have little or no consequence today - save the superstitions of Twelfth Night. However, the reason for the season most definitely does have consequences.

During mass, or the breaking of bread, we use a prayer to give thanks (Eucharist in Greek) for the bread and wine. Amongst other things they symbolise God being physically present with us in Jesus by the Spirit. During Epiphany, that prayer includes reference to the coming of the group of academics (or three kings); to the christening of Jesus; and his turning water into wine at a marriage. These stories are given as testimony to the belief that Jesus is God by the Spirit. The magi saw consequences in the cosmos, in creation and recognised the implication to culture, religion and worldly power. The accounts of the baptism of Jesus tell of God saying he loves him and describe the Spirit landing on him. The miracle at Cana speaks of the fulfilling and regenerative consequences of God being in Jesus by the Spirit for culture, religion and society.

So, is Jesus real and is he really God? It is not unusual to be asked, often in a declaratory manner by someone hurt or challenged by pain, 'Why does God allow suffering?'. Sometimes the question is born of a hope that there really is a God; sometimes in the certain knowledge that there isn't; and sometimes in the style of a child's tantrum directed at a carer or parent who very definitely does exist! This in a nutshell is the consequential conundrum of believing in

Christmas as a Jew and in wrestling with that belief for the rest of us. Epiphany is the continuing unrolling of the story of God, not only existing, but being born of the earth and of woman. It is the continuing unrolling story of our response, with all creation, to the offer of personal encounter consequent on the reality of that spirituality.

That may be all very well for those who need a crutch, but "I'm not religious", you may say. Or you may claim that this is all very interesting but "my faith is private". Whilst these attitudes are perfectly valid, arguably they are divisive and isolating. Division is painful. Pain is suffering. Why does God allow suffering? Partly as a parent, or other responsible leader, to give freedom, to get things right, to experience, to go beyond, to learn and to voluntarily respond. However, like a parent on the skatepark with us or a boss who sits with their team in an open plan office, being born amongst us, God is with us in the pain and has broken the division of us and them. God does not - as we so often do - blame the striking nurses, or the immigrants, or both. God does not blame the church, the Government, or simply something else. Instead God identifies with us. With the atheists amongst us, we would do well to see in the stories of this season, the dangers of division, of blaming the other and the consequences. We would do well to receive the suggestion of the fruitful consequences of getting involved, getting to know, and taking responsibility. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who recognises the value of retaining the real presence of church, both people and building, in their community, and are keen to build bridges and take responsibility to that end. Without us all there is no community. Without community there is no church!


Dominic

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07818 212978

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

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

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

It may seem that all the excitement of Christmas is over – and what a time we had: carols, Christingles, parties, celebrations of the coming of Jesus. But the Christmas season is still ongoing. And so is the **Reason for the Season!**

Familiarity can so easily dull the senses: I was preaching recently from Matthew 1:18-25 which seems such a straight forward account of the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph were betrothed (perhaps a bit like our concept of engagement, but also much stronger in terms of a definite commitment and contract). Before they 'completed' the marriage, we are told that Mary was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit!

Doesn't that need a bit more explanation? How did they come to realise this? It isn't as if the concept of pregnancy by the Holy Spirit was a normal thing: It was never heard of before or since!

Yes Luke tells us that Mary herself knew – because she'd been told by an angel. How everyone else realised or came to accept such a shocking (preposterous?) assertion, however, is far from clear. Joseph, in the first instance *didn't* accept it. His natural assumption was that Mary had fallen pregnant in the usual way, from sexual intercourse. And he knew it wasn't with him! Hence he resolved to divorce her.

His desire not to shame her publicly speaks of his love for her despite his assumptions. And he must have known that she could face more than public disgrace – potentially even death by stoning.

Yet an angel spoke to him also and he came to accept the astonishing truth.

Even more shocking is what was going on – you could say at a 'cosmic' level: Such an unusual, unheard of way for a virgin to become pregnant was itself for a reason. This marks God *breaking into* human experience. And why? To make a difference that still affects us today.


The coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, is worth celebrating not just at Christmas but in life-long gratitude.

Oh, and... Happy New Year.

Blessings

Jon






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An Epiphany Tradition – Do Try This At Home!

Blessing the Chalk

Our help is the name of the Lord:

The maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home (Christus Mansionem Benedicat)

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + ** while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and **** years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**



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hearingcarecentre.co.uk

Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research UK

On November 26th, we held our Christmas Fair, the committee and our volunteers were absolutely stunned by the success of the event.

We are so very grateful to those who come along to our fundraising events - you are always so very generous. We truly couldn't do this without every single one of you, whether you are one of our old friends or new. You all raised the magnificent total of £2609.28. Thank you.

The Fair was attended by our President Dr Clark and Mrs Clark and Sophia France, Cancer Research's area fundraising manager.



The hall looked very Christmassy and was very busy as everyone enjoyed the forwarm friendly atmosphere browsing the stalls and enjoying the delicious lunches. The committee would like to thank our incredible volunteers, we couldn't put on such a big event without your help. Also the husbands of committee members and volunteers who always get roped in to move furniture, tables, wash up etc!

We are immensely grateful to both Cleveleys, and Halesworth Co-op for their incredible generosity in supplying most of the food for our lunches. Also Karen Prime (Edwards). The delicious desserts were provided by committee members and volunteers.

A huge thank you to the following businesses for sponsoring our raffle:- The White Hart Halesworth, Patrick's Newsagents, Morrisons, Halesworth Golf Club, The Angel, Remnants, Mr & Mrs Stephenson Woodside Farm Holton, The Huntsman and Hounds Spexhall, Boutique 14 Halesworth, St Peter's Brewery, Hillfarm Oils Ltd.

We would like to thank Market Fields Holton for their continuing support in providing the beautiful hamper for the "Hamper raffle". The lucky winner was Mr Cadle from Bungay. Saturday night's lottery bonus ball was number 11 so the whisky bonus ball hamper was won by Carol from Holton. Thank you to Spectra who have sponsored all five of our events in 2022. Also EPS for keeping our banners up to date. Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes, baked for us, sent donations or contributed in any way. Special thanks to Susan Fitch, Maureen Took and Anne Felgate.

Some 2023 dates for your diaries: Saturday 18th February - Jumble Sale; Saturday 25th March - Breakfast; Saturday 20th May - Spring Fair; July 13th-19th (new event) i-Chameleon; Saturday 14th October Jumble Sale; Saturday 18th November - Christmas Fair. Street collection June 23rd/24th (tbc). We look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Everyone connected with the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research UK wish you all A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

COMMUNITY CUPPA



What is a Community Cuppa?

Pop in and enjoy a cuppa and chat and find out how the Later Life Community Team can help you or your community.

The Community Cuppa is for people aged 65 + living in Halesworth and surrounding areas.

**FREE
Entry**

10am-12noon

The Pear Tree Centre Bungay Road,
Halesworth IP19 8SG

No need to book, just turn up!

For more information:

Tel: 01284 334516

Facebook: @laterlifecommunity

Email: llc@communitiestogether-ea.org

Halesworth

2023

13th January

10th February

10th March



Later
Life
Community

Registered Charity: 1004198



Connected
Communities
SUFFOLK
"Your journey to wellbeing starts here"



Interreg
France (Channel) England
Connected Communities
European Regional Development Fund



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM HALESWORTH LIBRARY

The library is the perfect place to brighten what is for many one of the darkest and coldest months of the year. There is always a warm welcome from our staff and volunteers. As part of Suffolk Libraries' warm banks initiative, we are continuing to offer free hot drinks at the library in addition to our kindness racks of free warm clothes (for which we continue to welcome donations). We are also working hard with East Suffolk Council and other authorities to provide our borrowers with as much information as possible regarding available support and services to help them through the cost-of-living crisis. We hope people in the community will feel especially welcome and want to spend some extra time at the Library this winter, particularly if they are struggling to heat their homes. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and join in with one of our regular activities or sit down with a book or the day's papers. All are welcome.

JANUARY EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE FRIENDS OF HALESWORTH LIBRARY

Board Games Café (Monday 9th January, 2pm – 4.30pm). There are lots of games to choose from (both old favourites and ones you may not have seen before) at the Board Games Café. Tea and cake and a guaranteed fun afternoon. No need for any previous skills. £1 suggested donation.

Sociable Sundays (Sunday 15th and 29th January, 10.30am – 12.30pm). Drop in between 10.30am and 12.30pm to enjoy a hot drink and cake, and a chat with others. A pleasant way to spend an hour or two and to make new friends. No need to book, just turn up. £1 suggested donation.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

Wordplay. Come along to our Wordplay sessions for babies, toddlers, parents, and carers on Tuesday mornings from 10am – 11.30am. Young and old can make new friends and enjoy music and games together.

Family Fun Time. Are you looking for something to do with the children at the weekend? Look no further than our Family Fun Time sessions, Sundays from 11am – 12.30pm. All are welcome to drop in for board games, craft activities, Lego, and stories.

Homework Club. On Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 3.30pm – 5pm, we reserve the gallery as a space for kids to get their homework done. Afternoons in the library are a quiet and productive space with plenty of books and digital resources to assist in homework assignments. Snacks and drinks kindly donated by local shops are free to those attending.

Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter. For those looking to improve their knitting and crafting we host a friendly and inclusive group for all who enjoy making and socialising. The group meets upstairs at the library every first and third Tuesday from 2pm – 4pm.

Time Out. There is lots to enjoy at our Time Out sessions on Wednesday mornings and it is a good place to meet new people. Join us for crafts, chat, and free refreshments 10am – 11.30am.

Council Advice Clinic. The East Suffolk Council Advice Clinic is held in the library on Tuesdays from 10am – 3pm.

Barclays Bank Drop-in. Weekly drop-in session from 9.30am

– 4.30pm every Wednesday where they offer help with money management, financial help, business support and home loans. Additional Barclays Digital Eagles sessions held monthly, keep an eye out in the library for more information.

IT Help. Did you know that the library offers one to one IT help? Whether you are considering a smartphone, wanting to know more about apps or simply learning how to do more digitally, ask at the library. Tuition is £15 an hour – all proceeds are donated to library funds.

Halesworth Repair Café. Last Monday in the month, 2pm – 4pm: Bring along an old garment or item for repair, learn some useful mending skills and talk to the friendly repair team. Admission free but donations towards costs and refreshments appreciated.

Further details available from the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Email us at: halesworth.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk
or phone us on 01986 875095.

To join the Friends of Halesworth Library you will need to complete a membership form, which can be obtained preferably by emailing:
friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com
or by phoning the library.



Rehability
www.rehability.co.uk

Visit our shop and Independent Living Centre

How Rehability could help you...



- Advice from occupational therapists on adapting your home to increase your independence and safety
- Advice and demonstration of equipment for bathing, showering, toileting, sleeping, seating, eating & drinking, indoor mobility & access
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Independent Living Centre & Show Home at:

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(2 miles west of Halesworth on the B1123)

Tel: 01986 873803

E-mail: shop@rehability.co.uk



VERONICA DOWNING
ASSOCIATES





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

Join us for Compline live on Facebook @ 9.30pm.

Search:- blythvalleychurchsuffolk
Mondays - Alison

Wednesday and Fridays - Linda

Saturdays and Sundays - Jason

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

Come and Sing Musicals!

Saturday 11th February 2023

10am - 4.30pm

at St. Mark's Church,

Oulton Broad NR33 9JX.

Come and join other singers in a fun day exploring songs from well-known musicals! Led by the charismatic vocal specialist and choir trainer Vetta Wise. Tickets: £15 (under 18s: £8).

Bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee (and cake!) will be provided.

Car parking available at the Church Centre.

Application forms from 01502 722906, or pakefieldsingers@gmail.com

Do bring your youngsters along too - a good way to introduce them to the enjoyment of singing together.

www.pakefieldsingers.com



Are you living with a life-changing illness or long-term condition, or are caring for someone who does?

Have you or someone in your family experienced a bereavement?

If so, the Pear Tree Fund can support you.

We offer a wide range of free services from the Pear Tree Centre, our tranquil and welcoming base nestled in the heart of Halesworth.

Services include:

Wellbeing and bereavement support:

- A listening ear, emotional support and counselling
- Complementary therapies
- Activities such as art therapy and cookery for the bereaved
- Nature-based 'elders wellbeing' programme
- Carers' support, including young carers

Information and advice to help you live well in the community:

- Support to understand a diagnosis or health condition
- Social welfare advice: benefits, blue badges and housing etc
- Learn digital skills and access support online

Support groups and talks from local services



We support anyone living in East Suffolk and neighbouring parts of Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk.

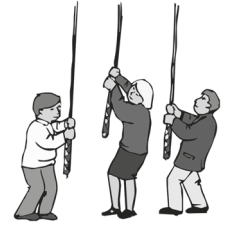
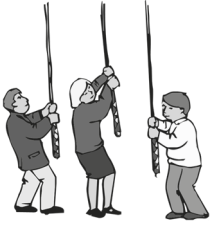
Find us at the

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call 01986 899655 or
email info@peartreefund.org
web peartreefund.org

  @ThePearTreeFund

We also offer telephone, online and home visiting support for those unable to visit the Pear Tree Centre.

Local support when you need it most



From the Ringing Chamber

There have been some significant achievements in the last few weeks.

Firstly, Erika and Kevin, who are technically Mendham ringers but who are also part of the Halesworth band, both achieved their Level 3 of the "Learning the Ropes" scheme, equivalent to musical Grade 3. They have both worked really hard since starting to ring shortly before lockdown and have shown real commitment.

Secondly, Pete and I have both been accredited as ringing teachers by the Association of Ringing Teachers. We are the first in NE Suffolk to gain this status. Our assessor was very impressed with the learner we demonstrated with – Kari – which brings me on to the next achievement: Kari has rung her first rounds, initially at Blythburgh but then at Halesworth and Wissett, the first major step on the ringing journey. Well done everyone!

We have attempted a number of quarter peals recently, but our success rate has not been good. Oxford Treble Bob at Blythburgh failed after halfway due to conductor error (mea culpa) while the Plain Bob Doubles evaporated in a flash before the Huntingfield carol service: another attempt with a slightly different band met the same fate at Wenhaston.

Ah well – if we didn't lose a few it would reduce the value of the ones we do get.

We did score a pain-free quarter of Grandsire Doubles at Halesworth when the icy roads forced cancellation of the normal practice.

Christmas is always a busy period and this year we planned, and succeeded in, ringing for all the carol services at those churches in the Team with bells, as well as the Christingle Service at Halesworth on Christmas Eve and, thanks to various ringers visiting family over the holiday, the Christmas Day service in town.

So, 2023 beckons: what are my reflections of 2022?

We've been low on numbers, but the loyalty and commitment shown by the band has been terrific. No fewer than seven of the band rang nine or more quarter peals during the year, and we've definitely moved forward.

We've managed some recruitment, but could do with more if we're going to be able to resume ringing at Halesworth regularly. And that, dear readers, is down to you!

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Friends of St Mary's Lunchtime Recital Review 21st December 2022

It was worth waiting an extra week to hear Jason Busby's uplifting organ recital. After being greeted with carols as we took our places, we heard Philip Stopford's meditative music for the song *Do Not Be Afraid* and the *Carol Of The Bells*, a joyous piece by the young German composer, Paul Fey. The cleverly arranged programme then gave the audience a chance to sing familiar carols, each of which was followed by a prelude based on the same carol. Noel Rawsthorne's prelude gave us music woven round on *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*; the plainsong melody *Of The Father's Love Begotten* formed the basis of Stanley Vann's prelude *Divinum Mysterium*; another gentle prelude by Noel Rawsthorne followed the audience's singing of *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*. The tune *Forest Green*, a folk melody collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams, was used for the singing of *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*, but the corresponding prelude by Paul Fey also referenced the alternative tune by H Walford Davies. The recital concluded with *O Come All Ye Faithful* and the prelude by Richard Lloyd on *Adeste Fideles* (the original Latin words of the carol).

Not only did the audience enjoy the opportunity to hear and sing these well-known carols and the use of them made by 20th century composers but they were also able to learn about the organ which Jason was playing. He explained the use of the four keyboards and the different sounds they produce; he even moved the camera (which had enabled us to see him on a screen as he performed) so that we could see how the pedal organ worked, illustrating this with a reprise of the *Carol Of The Bells*.

Shirley Smith

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

- A little bit of history: Monuments of all shapes and sizes - Part 4

Ringling in the New Year 2023, we consider one group of monuments which hold the distinction of often being heard but very seldom seen. Church Bells with their many inscriptions both commemorate and celebrate – the Gospel, the individual or an event.

When the Revd John James Raven DD penned the preface to his book entitled *The Church Bells of Suffolk*, he cautioned that, “the lists of bells cast by the various founders was not exhaustive”, and that changes are continuously made when recasting or repairing. Writing from his Fressingfield Vicarage near Harleston on the 28 August 1890, he further tells us, “This chronicle is the culmination of 42 years work”.

According to the Revd Raven there were fifty such bells in what are now called the Blyth Valley Churches, eight of which were housed in the medieval tower of St Mary the Virgin, Halesworth. Further, he chronicles unique bell founder identification marks.

So, for example, two of the Halesworth bells were cast in Bury St Edmunds by HS working in the mid third of the 15th century. There is a shield on these bells which provides evidence that HS was also a cannon-gun-founder. Both bells bear Latin inscriptions, one of which Raven says is rare in East Anglia – for St John the Evangelist. Is it fanciful to think the commissioners of this bell were also alluding to their medieval Lord of the Manor, Sir John Argentine (1318-1382), a benefactor of St Mary the Virgin? HS also cast a bell for St Peter, Wenhaston, its Latin inscription reads ‘Sancta Anna Oro Pro Nobis’.

Likewise in the Wenhaston tower is a bell cast by the Brasyer dynasty of Norwich. Robert Brasyer was mayor in 1410; Richard the elder, mayor in 1456 and 1463; and Richard the younger in 1510. Robert was memorialised in a brass effigy in St Stephens, Norwich, the area of their bell founding premises. Raven says, “No one can see the lettering of these Norwich bells, without being struck by its great beauty”. The Latin inscription on the Wenhaston bell translates to: “We pray thee Andrew, receive the vows of the servants”.

Another of the Brasyer bells hangs in St Peter, Spexhall; Raven wrestles with its Latin inscription, but concludes it translates to: “Box of sweet honey, I am called Michaels bell”, in reference perhaps to the box shape of the bell. Is it Kismet that the current churchwarden is a committed bee-keeper?

The Revd Raven writes extensively of Henry Jordan of London, another of the mid-15th century bell founders. In the Blyth Valley three of his bells hang in St Andrew, Bramfield. He comments that Jordan’s bells are of, “a superior character”. Each has a Latin inscription.

However, it is St Andrew, Wissett, which appears to garner the earliest reference; one bell bears a wheel stop considered to be indicative of William Burford of London. Its inscription reads simply, “Virgo Maria”. William Burford’s will was dated and proved in 1390.

St Peter, Thorington, has a bell inscribed, “Samuel Owen made me for Wansted 1598”. The Owens of Hounsitch were well known gun-founders, one of their cannons was raised on the *Mary Rose*, the Flagship of Henry VIII. The second page of the earliest St Peter register documents that Edward Coke, Attorney General, and his wife Bridgett, gave this in 1598.

The towers of St Mary the Virgin, Halesworth, St Michael, Cookley, and St Andrew, Bramfield, all have bells cast by the father and son team, William and John Brend of Norwich. St Mary has three, a bell inscribed Anno Domini 1611, a bell dedicated to, “Richard Welton and Daniel Barne Churchwardens 1627”, and a bell which reads, “New repaired by Roger Woods Erasmus Moss Church Wardens – Jefery Barrett gave me”. St Michael has one inscribed Anno Domini 1593, and St Andrew has two which read Anno Domini 1621.

Of the fifteen churches in the Blyth Valley group, this short précis touches on only seven of the towers, and merely sixteen of the fifty bells, it can therefore in no way do justice to the Revd Raven’s expert work. But hopefully it serves as an alert to the wonderful and rich history contained in *The Church Bells of Suffolk*.

A nony mouse

Note: A new and updated edition of the History of the Bells of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Halesworth, will shortly be available in church, with other booklets from the Friend’s collection about its history.



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Happy New Year

The joyful worship and carol singing, fun and indulgence, merriness and sparkle of Christmas is already a passing memory, some of us will have already tidied away the decorations for another 290 days (approximately!). Back to the daily grind, back to public service strikes and scary fuel bills, hopefully the really cold weather has ended for good. Yes, if we stop to think about it, it's really hard to think of "happy" new year, it's a time of anxiety for the world, the country and our personal circumstances. But let's think again, remember the thriving projects in our community and count our blessings with thankfulness.

Next month, I hope to have read my Christmas books to share with you but meanwhile here are some hope and "newness" thoughts from the Bible for encouragement.

(The Lord says) Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43¹⁸⁻¹⁹).

...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40³¹).

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. (Proverbs 23¹⁸).

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29¹¹).

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Rev 21⁵).

Happy New Year everyone. Amen.

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

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 your articles to

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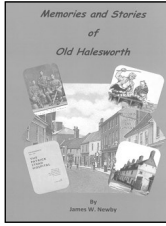
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Donations of food for the Foodbank can also be left at
Woolnough's Funeral Service's office at the entrance to
Halesworth Cemetery on Holton Road and also at
Rosedale Funeral Services in the Market Place,
Halesworth.

There are collection boxes outside the offices, where
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Halesworth dementia

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100+ Club

We now have nearly 100 members signed up for this and the first monthly draw was held on Monday 14th November. Chairman of the Halesworth Town Council, Rosemary Lewis, drew the winning numbers and they were: 75 (£80), 31 (£55) and 66 (£30). If you would like to join our 100+ Club please contact Anna on 01986 872207.

Film Matinee

Our next film will be "Mrs Harris goes to Paris". It will be shown on Wednesday 18th January at The Cut in Halesworth. Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2pm start.

Thank You

It has been another very busy year for HdCF and we would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support during 2022.

Times are not easy at the moment and we really appreciate all the help and support we get. We would like to thank all our volunteers, those running the various activities, and The Cut and all those who help with our film matinees. But a special thanks goes to all those people in the area who give time, bequests and donations to help us with our work.

We extend our gratitude, and New Year greetings, to each and everyone.

John Wood

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TEAM COUNCIL meeting

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Blyth Valley Times

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St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

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OPEN THE BOOK

In December, the Open the Book team visited schools in Bramfield, Holton and Wenhaston and acted out a Christmas poem with help from the children, entitled *From Sad To Glad*.

It was a Christian value topic on love. Please see photo below featuring children from Bramfield.

We look forward to returning to the schools next term with a full team of volunteers and another story from the Bible. **GW**



Bramfield pupils enjoyed taking part and watching the Christmas Story in rhyme, told by the Open the Book team.

St Andrew's Carol Service - 18.12.22

The Bramfield St Andrew's Christmas Carol concert was enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd. The church looked absolutely lovely, having been decorated with Christmas greenery by our fantastic team of helpers. Carols were sung with gusto by an admittedly small but keen congregation. Reverend Linda took the service and gave some lovely readings, helped by volunteers. Afterwards we enjoyed hot mulled wine and homemade mince pies courtesy of the church committee. It was a lovely festive occasion and despite the small turn out, not helped by the awful weather and a clash with a certain sporting fixture, there was a real festive cheer to the gathering.

You don't have to be religious to come and join in with our church. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful building in our community. It is a very unusual and pretty church and is grade two listed. We are always looking at ways of using the space with the community in mind and look forward to sharing it with you all next year. It really did look a picture decorated for Christmas and we hope to see it well attended next year. **Dawn Munnings**

The Christmas Fayre - 10.12.22

On Saturday 10th December the first annual Christmas Fair since the pandemic was held in Bramfield's Village Hall. The turn-out from residents and table holders was excellent, with the usual wide variety of items for sale. Pat Potts' famous

turkeys rolls, tea and coffee kept the punters refreshed throughout the Fair. A total of £440.00 was raised in aid of the Village Hall, which was very rewarding, given the current climate. A big 'Thank You' goes to all those who helped on the day, setting up and clearing up, and providing the refreshments." **Andrew Niven**

Bramfield Village Green - 12.12.22

In May of this year, Bridge Street Meadow was put up for sale by the Johnson Estate. Bramfield residents expressed overwhelming support for an idea to purchase the land as a village green. The Village Hall Committee received pledges of more than £25,000 towards the land cost, but further grant funding was needed to meet the vendors' price.

In June of this year, Fiona Ryder, and Jeremy Thickitt, submitted a bid to buy Bridge Street Meadow from the Johnson Estate, (as intermediaries) to give the village time to raise sufficient capital from grants and donations.

We are delighted to confirm that their purchase completed this morning. This means that the land is now 'safe'. Jeremy and Fiona will sell Bridge Street Meadow on to the village (at cost) once funds have been secured.

We will be in touch early in 2023 when fundraising starts in earnest.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Jane Edwards

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

A very happy New Year to you all. Hopefully, it will be a brighter and happier one for 2023, with the King's Coronation to look forward to in May.

Chediston Christmas Fair

How lovely it was to be back in the Church School Room for our much-loved Christmas Fair, the last one took place in 2019 just before the dreaded Covid. Our numbers were slightly down, but a good time was had by all and the final amount raised was £816. Many thanks must go to Paula Hall who was instrumental in pulling it all together, plus her Christmas goodies.

The room was beautifully decorated and, on arrival, everyone had the opportunity of a cup of tea, biscuits or mulled wine, manned by Julia and her helpers. Judi Fossett ran the cake stall with her delicious mini-Christmas cakes. Joyce Gregory's stall, as always, attracted many buyers with her home-made preserves and chutneys. The lemon curd was a sell-out. Sadie Shield manned the mini treasure mat. Sara Burroughes had great success with the many and varied items on her tombola. Chris Roose took charge of the raffle and there were many good prizes to be won. Joanna collected lots of £1 coins labelled with people's names, with one person's name pulled out of the hat for the prize.

Wendy Burroughes, with Peter, kept the children busy with various activities such as decorating biscuits and a hunt around the church for hidden angels. Sam Curtis donated a doll all dressed up for "Guess the Name" which was very popular. Other attractions were on display also.

Finally, a very convincing Father Christmas arrived (a well-disguised Oliver) the outfit fitted him beautifully. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way and my apologies if I have left anyone out!

St Mary's Christmas Tree – Saturday 10th December

At 5.30pm, on Sat 10th December, all were invited to St Mary's Chediston to admire the Christmas tree in the church and enjoy a glass of champagne. 40 people attended and were asked to take a label, write a wish and hang it on the tree. One wish was – "Hoping for Ipswich Town to win the Cup!"



Chediston & Linstead W I – Christmas Lunch

This took place at the Rumburgh Buck on December 13th, after a very wintry drive for everyone. We were rewarded

with a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, coffee and mince pies to finish with. A draw was then held where everyone was lucky enough to receive a small gift, which was very much appreciated.

On a more sombre note, we were saddened to hear of the death of Jenny Berry, a staunch member of the WI for many years, she will be much missed. A card was signed by us all and our condolences go to the family. She was widow of William, mother of Tamzin, Dinah and Jo and a cherished grandmother.

Cookley

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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Halesworth

**Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336**

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

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



The King's Christmas message set in the beautifully majestic St George's Chapel Windsor Castle. Standing above where the King's beloved mother lies, the King spoke of the

much-loved carol 'O little Town of Bethlehem' when we sing of how *In thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light*. "My mother's belief in the power of that light was an essential part of her faith in God, but also her faith in people and it is one which I share with my whole heart".



That belief in the power of light shone true at St Mary's Halesworth over our Christmas celebrations. From the Town Carol Service; Christingle (thanks to Gwen, Simon, Sarah, Sophie, Emilia and Carol for making 160 Christingles); Midnight Mass; Christmas Day; Feast of St Stephen on Boxing Day particularly the All Access Carols, there was a buzz of excitement, positivity, tradition, story telling and much carol singing with gusto. It warmed my heart to be part of it all and seeing the community come together decorating the church with trees once again.

On behalf of Dominic, Gini and the PCC, a big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas services in so many different ways. We couldn't have celebrated our Lord's birth without you.

Do you listen to Classic FM? Can you guess what the nation's favourite carol was for 2022 (again)? It was, of course, *O Holy Night* with *Silent Night* in second place.

Wishing peace, togetherness and a blessed new year to all.

I would like to highlight the 'All Access Carol Service' – many thanks to Gini and the team for putting this service together, a first for us at St Mary's. With 10 minutes to go before the

service started, we were getting additional chairs out and printing extra orders of service. We were totally surprised by the turn out. With songs sung by the Mencap singers and the Dementia Support Group (*see photos below*), carols sung, readings given by a cross section of people from the community, an address by Linda which quoted from *In the bleak midwinter* there was a great buzz of celebration in church. We even had a good old bun fight afterwards. We pray for all those involved with the service and look forward to welcoming everyone back for a proposed summer event.

Looking ahead in 2023...

REGENERATION is top priority with a steering group being formed for what Dominic describes as "One of the most exciting projects in north east Suffolk for a decade!" We will have the opportunity to contribute to the securing of a re-ordering that will re-establish the interior of St Mary's Halesworth as a regionally significant awe inspiring community hub of heritage and faith. We watch this space with great anticipation!

We will also see the return of The Friends of St Mary's recitals in the spring. The Pakefield Singers are

returning in late March or early April for a concert. In May we welcome, for the first time to St Mary's, Janette Ruocco (conductor) and the a cappella chamber choir Nota Bene. The PCC is pleased East Suffolk Council is once again using St Mary's for a series of meetings of the 'Youth Action' sub groups. On Sunday 19th March, we will host a Mothering Sunday lunch, but before any of that I am thrilled to announce that Burns Night returns to St Mary's on Wednesday 25th January.



Can I tempt you to a Scotch whisky cocktail on arrival? Cock-a-leekie soup? Haggis, Neeps and Tatties? Cranachan? With a wee dram with which to address the Haggis, plus music and poetry, all for £20 a ticket. Please see the poster or advertisement on page 29 of this issue for more details. Booking is essential, please contact me (Jason) on 873336 or 07817863533.

Finally from me, thank you to everyone who reads my articles/thoughts or even sometimes ramblings, going through my mind. Thinking ahead to 2023 I am reminded of Archbishop Justin's New Year message last year. "In the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we see that God turns all endings into new beginnings, and death into life. God invites us to be part of this story – to be people who bring hope, healing and renewal to our world. This year, let's keep planting those seeds – let's keep moving forward in hope". I wish you all a happy, healthy New Year.

ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

Results of the December draw: 1st P Winter; 2nd D Hale; 3rd B Woolner.

HALESWORTH WI

Our AGM meeting gave us an opportunity to look over our past year, we had listened to excellent speakers on gardening, medical detection dogs and sung along happily which I am sure improved our well-being, Admired our members own craft work and a talk on the Pear Tree Centre, which is now a much needed part of the town.

We have enjoyed chances to meet up together for friendship and a chat for which the WI are all experts and welcomed twelve new members.

As I write this, we are looking forward to a carol concert and sharing a Christmas lunch also possibly a chance to shout "He's behind you" at a pantomime in the new year.

We wish our members and all who read this a Happy and Healthy 2023.

BP

Heveningham

Correspondent Christine Baker

St Margaret's Church, Heveningham

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

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

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



Like all of our churches, St Margaret's of Heveningham and Ubbeston had a busy lead up to Christmas. The church was dressed with a tree and our thanks again go out to Julie Clark for her beautiful displays of holly, ivy and other greenery all picked from the roadside and hedges around Heveningham.

We held our candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 11th December which was well attended considering the weather. Everyone who attended enjoyed the carols, along with the singing of Lily and Daisie-Mae, local children who sang *Away in a Manger* and a verse of *Silent Night*. It made the service extra special indeed.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a glass of mulled wine, donated by Heveningham Hall, along with mince pies and cakes. Thanks to all who brought these along. All in all, it made a really good start to Christmas.



Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

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St Peter's Church, Holton

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

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

I am writing this on December 27th, the house is still in Christmas mode, the tree still decked, piles of unwrapped gifts in odd corners, the fridge stuffed with food and an air of relaxation pervades the house. We have had a good time!

How blessed we are to be able to say that when so many people are struggling. At the beginning of the New Year we do pray for a year with better news, for peace in Ukraine, for a lessening of the financial hardship affecting so many here in the UK, and for fairness and justice for all.

In the run up to Christmas there was quite a lot going on in the Blyth Valley Team of Churches with carol services, crib services, the Town Carol Service, christingles, midnight communion, the new and incredibly successful *Easy Access Carol Service* at St Mary's Church Halesworth and more! Thank you to all the clergy who have had so many services to lead.

In Holton, Dot held her Christmas Coffee Morning in the village hall and was thrilled and delighted by the number of people who ventured out in the freezing conditions. A fantastic £500+ was raised for the Pear Tree Centre, well done Dot!

Dot Booley writes: Many, many thanks to everyone who came to my Coffee Morning on a very frosty morning at the Village Hall. I was amazed how many turned up, we even had to get extra tables out! After all the donations and raffle money was counted, £500+ was raised for the Pear Tree Fund. I must thank my band of helpers as I couldn't do it without you., thank you!

My next effort will be a Race Night on February 4th at the Village Hall look out for the posters and please below and the advertisement on page 29 of this issue. Thanks again everyone.

RACE NIGHT

Race Night Saturday 4th February, Holton Village Hall. Races start 7.30pm. Bring your own food and drinks. Tickets £5 (cash only) available from the Halesworth Bookshop, Dot Booley 01986 872350 and The Pear Tree Centre.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER

On Saturday 19th November, Simon Booth, 14, grandson of Chris and

Helen Knevet and a member of Waveney Gymnasts went to the Disability British Championships in Cardiff where he was extremely successful, winning gold medals in three disciplines and silver in the other three, resulting in winning the overall gold medal in his grouping.

Simon is on the Autistic scale and competes in disability gymnastics competitions. Prior to this meeting, he had been selected to represent Special Olympics Great Britain at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin next summer. There are only five gymnasts from GB in the games - two of them are also from Waveney. Approximately 7000 athletes from all sports will be present at the Games.

As the Special Olympics are not funded, Simon and his teammates, have to raise £2500 each towards the cost of attending. The Club will be arranging fundraising events and Simon has a *Just Giving* page for anyone kind enough to help towards it.



Needless to say Chris and Helen are very proud grandparents, they are hoping to attend the Games to support Simon (*pictured above*).

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

We are in celebration mood at the Hall as we have had a Lottery Fund *Awards for All* grant towards our Flushing Fund. This together with monies from Adnams, Broadway Colours, Spectra Packaging and County Councillor Annette Dunning's locality budget means we are close to our goal of £36,000 to renew our sewage system – much needed!

Our residents have been brilliant and contributed to the fund – as has the Parish Council and we can't thank everyone enough for their generosity.

To keep up the flow – we hope – we have several events planned for the end of this year and into 2023.

On Saturday 21st January Burns Night will return after a three-year break. Celebration of the Bard's birthday – a little early this year – will take the shape of a 3-course home cooked meal and the traditional toast will be suitably delivered by Jim Fyfe.

Tickets are £20 per person available from Wendy on 01986 872590 but going fast. Please see our advertisement on page 29 of this issue.

Holton Big Breakfast for January will be on Sunday 8th from 9am.

Early notice. The great, funny and down to earth Charlie Haylock is coming to make us laugh and to explain his part in the film about Sutton Hoo – *the Dig*. No doubt there will be tidbits about Ralph Fiennes! We will be serving supper as part of the evening and aim to make this a most enjoyable event. April 1st 2023 at 7pm is the note for your new diary.

We would like to wish you a brilliant New Year and thank you most sincerely for your support this year.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

St Mary's Church, Huntingfield

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

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



As I write this, we are at the end of December and on the cusp of a new year. What a busy December it was, too.

Is it perhaps because two very low key

Christmas people felt the need to 'pull out all the stops' this year, or after said two low key years, have we forgotten how busy December can be?

In our small village of approx 170 people, we are blessed to have a church, a community hall (The Hub) and a pub. Without people to use them, they are nothing so we are doubly blessed that all three are well frequented and keep the village alive and kicking.

During December the church hosted a communion service, a magnificent a cappella concert by Vetta Wise and the Aurora Consort and a beautiful candlelit Family Carol Service.

Down at the Hub, meanwhile, a three village Christmas dinner was served to 60 residents cooked by Sara and Steve from the pub.

Kids' Club celebrated Christmas with a party for 22 very excited children. After games, pizza, jelly and ice cream, each child received a gift from under the tree to take home. Our grateful thanks to the Central England Co-op for funding our Club for another year and enabling us to do this.

As we enter the new year more details are emerging on how our Hub is going to be used as a 'warm space'. If you are interested in finding out more, I would urge you to check the Huntingfield Hub website for more details.

As a village we have a group of volunteers on standby ready to collect any needed items from the Halesworth Community Larder, and delivered to your doorstep. If you are in need please email your requirements to: huntingfieldkidsclub@gmail.com and we will be in touch. All enquiries will be treated with the utmost confidence.

Finally, from all of us in Huntingfield may we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New year!

Linstead

Correspondent

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WHY A COLD SNAP SHOULD COME AS such a shock to us all, puzzles me. After all, even the most fervent prophets of Global Warming only predict an average temperature rise of

one or two degrees. Presumably the night it made minus 6°C could have been minus 8°C, so be grateful for small mercies. What also puzzled me was, during a trip to Birmingham, we saw two gritter lorries in action in Suffolk and none thereafter. On the journey back a few days later, we came via Nottingham; all A roads, mostly in freezing fog. Number of gritter lorries seen? None. There were a few flurries of snow; if there had been anything more substantial things could have been really interesting.

THE LINSTED MARKET WAS AGAIN A great success. We raised just over £1000. Whilst not being able to actually achieve our Diocesan Quota, it enables us to have a fairly realistic stab at it. The new layout in St Mary's Halesworth really lends itself to such activities as Linstead Market. I am assured that in mediæval times such uses for church buildings were the norm and church pews were very largely an innovation of the Reformation. I seem to remember that Orthodox congregations still largely stand. Presumably that would have precluded sermons?

ONCE AGAIN, LINSTED GOT LIT UP at Christmas. Thanks to Benny Fenton and his team, a splendid Christmas tree was put in place alongside the south porch. Benny also installed some floodlighting, again on the south side, facing the road. This advertises for all to see that St Margaret's is still open for business. The black and white photograph below does not really do justice to the effect of the illuminations, but you get the general idea.



CHEDISTON & LINSTED WI HELD its Christmas meeting at the Rumburgh Buck and had, so I am assured, a splendid meal. They meet next at Linstead Village Hall, on Tuesday 10th January at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Anne Reeder and she will be taking a light-hearted look at 'The History of Headwear'. As a confirmed and dedicated hat wearer myself, I would liked to have heard that talk!

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT I

report the death of Jenny Berry. Jenny, Will and their family lived at Brook Farm, Chediston for many years. Their house was the closest to our church (albeit in the next parish) and they were great supporters of St Margaret's. They donated 'The Wilfin' (named in honour of Will Berry) behind the church. This is kept as a quiet area and also used for the scattering of ashes of those who do not want to be interred in the churchyard itself. Jenny was an interesting person, she was at Greenham Common for several years, when peace protestors picketed the airbase there. Latterly, she was a familiar sight around Halesworth, wielding her trusty litterpicker, to great effect. Our condolences go out to her family at this time.

IT WAS EQUALLY SAD TO LEARN OF the death of Alan Bish. Alan lived in Linstead Magna, with his wife, Val. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Val and their family.

JUST A REMINDER TO PCC MEMBERS that we meet at Dormy House on Wednesday 11th January, at 2.30pm. We will be arranging the programme for 2023.

THE SERVICE IN JANUARY WILL BE Holy Communion on Sunday 22nd January 2023, at 10am.

IT ONLY REMAINS FOR ME TO WISH you all a very happy New Year.

FLOWERS & CLEANING

22nd Mrs P Keable & Mr D Keable.

Spexhall

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

St Peter's Church, Spexhall

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

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



Christmas Comes But Once A Year

And a splendid Christmas we had at St Peter's this year! Our special thanks to all who helped to decorate and prepare the church so well, and in preparing and producing food and drink after the Carol Service and Midnight Mass.

We were very grateful that Jason Busby and the Team choir could play the real organ and give great harmony to the carols in the Carol Service.

Mr Bluetooth, our non-organist, left out the starred verses in *O Come All ye Faithful* at Midnight Mass without telling us in advance, so the final two verses were sung unaccompanied, but the congregation sounded wonderful as it brought our service to an end very early on Christmas morning!

As always we are also grateful to the clergy in serving us so well over the past year and leading our worship.

The North Wind Shall Blow

...and we shall have... not snow we hope, but a lovely concert by the 'Blo-ins', who play traditional and contemporary folk for Celtic harp, guitar and voice.

They have very kindly offered to play on the evening of Friday 20th January at 7pm to raise funds for the church. Tickets are £5 each (cash on the door) and there may still be a few tickets left. Please email: spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com to reserve tickets.

We Three Kings Of Orient Are

The Kings will be a little late to St Peter's Spexhall this year, but all are welcome to our service of Holy Communion at 10am on Sunday 15th January, which is the Sunday after the festival, but still in the festival period! So come and join us at St Peter's as we continue to follow the star.

Happy New Year

We wish all the villagers of Spexhall, and our friends in the other Team parishes and friends afar a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you to Church and Village Hall events soon. Look out for the latest news on the Facebook pages.

Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower

01502 478078

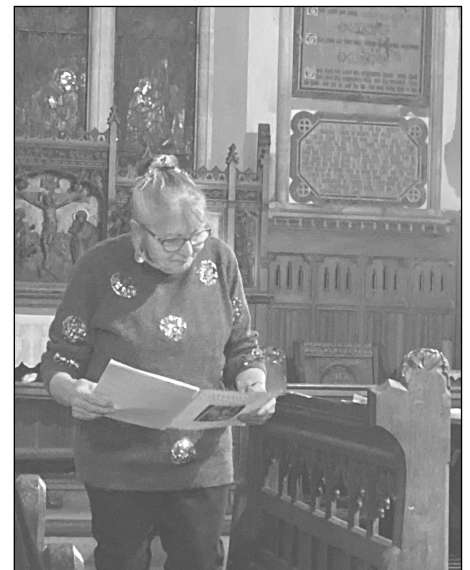
trish@coastal1.plus.com

Thorington PCC wishes all readers a Happy New Year. Everyone is welcome to join us for services, please see the services rota on page 3 of *BVTimes*.

A PCC meeting was held at the end of November and there are plans for an event to be held in the spring at the church, so please keep a look out for more details.

Our grateful thanks to all who help keep the church running here, and we thank Viv Peck for being Secretary of the PCC for many years, and wish her well. I know we will see her at our fundraising event this year!

Our Carol Service was a great success on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to Liz for organising and to all those who helped with mulled wine, mince pie making, read lessons etc.



Liz McMeikan writes: It was lovely to see Thorington church full again on Christmas Eve for the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols service, held for the first time since 2019.

To the accompaniment of the organ, there was enthusiastic singing from all and there was a particular treat in store when a professional chorister amongst the congregation sang a solo rendition of *The Angel Gabriel*; a very special thanks to Gabriel.

Thank you too to all who read the nine lessons so clearly and well.

The warming mulled wine and delicious home made mince pies were welcomed by all.

Walpole

Correspondents Lee & Anita Hill
07713 450078

St Mary's Church, Walpole

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

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

give
a little



Wenhaston

Correspondent
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margaret@wrush.plus.com

St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

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

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

give
a little



I start with the sad news that our dear friend and church member, Heather Hammond, died suddenly just before Christmas. Heather was a loyal and reliable person and we in the church are going to miss her terribly. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family at this sad time.

We wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. We hope Christmas was enjoyable for you as we celebrated our Saviour's birth and met with family and friends for this special occasion in the church year.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the tombola at the Christmas bazaar. It was good fun and raised £75 for church funds. Each year we are asked to pay a very large sum to the Diocese, which pays for clergy wages, housing, pensions etc, the generosity of the village folk goes a long way to help us pay this, so thank you very much.

January is a quiet month in the church calendar, so there is not much news, but I hope we can relax and refresh ourselves ready for a busy spring.

January services

- 8th Holy Communion, Bramfield 10am.
- 15th Holy Communion 10am.
- 22nd Pause for Thought 10am.
- 29th Holy Communion Halesworth 10am.

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

On Tuesday 6th December, we held our last meeting of 2022. This was our annual Christmas party where we bring sharing plates of food for the

buffet and the Club provides the drinks, with funds raised throughout the year from the 'sales table' run by Sheila. Jean made the decorations for the tables which added to the festive atmosphere. The evening was so well attended and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Before we tucked into the party food, we were very fortunate to have Jenny Baker with us who demonstrated three Christmas-themed arrangements.



Getting ready for the Wenhaston Flower club's Christmas party.

Sheila gave the vote of thanks and wished her well - Jenny was going to Westminster Abbey to arrange flowers for the Christmas carol service.

We don't have a meeting in January. Our next meeting will be our "After Christmas Meal" on Thursday 2nd February. (Please note that this is not our usual day). We are going to the Huntsman and Hounds at 12pm for 12.30pm. If anyone would like to join us, please contact Jackie.

We resume in March with a new programme in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm. We offer a warm welcome to everyone, there isn't a membership fee just pay on the night (£5 includes tea/coffee and biscuits).

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery on 01502 478401.

Wenhaston Walking Group

We had one walk for January on Tuesday, 3rd. Those who joined us enjoyed the simple pleasure of some fresh air after all the excesses. Happy New Year!

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

EA Spring Course in Wenhaston: Cinema and Religion

The Wenhaston Branch of the WEA will burst back into action with the Spring 2023 term. Our course will be 'Cinema and Religion' and is described by our tutor, David Sharp, as follows:

"Since the invention of 'movies', believers have seen the potential of the screen to document, envisage and persuade the viewer of the importance of a certain religious way of life. Cecil B DeMille's biblical blockbusters have given way to more sophisticated, sympathetic as well as sceptical perspectives on religion by directors such as Dreyer, Passolini, Weir and Scorsese.

Films will be grouped by major traditions: Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, New Age and will raise different questions about religion and spirituality. Films chosen will generally be of a serious nature, well received by critics and rarely biblical blockbusters, horror, historical costume drama, comedies or feel-good films.

Students may like to watch the following films in preparation: 'Chariots

of Fire', 'Silence', 'Yentl', 'The Seventh Seal', 'Dead Man Walking', 'Little Buddha', 'The Wicker Man', 'My Name is Khan'. You may also like to dip into books such as 'Religion and Film' by Melanie Wright and 'Luminous' by Mike King."

The course comprises seven x two hour sessions starting at 10am on Friday 3rd February at Wenhaston Village Hall, Hall Road IP19 9EP. A break for half term falls on Friday 17th February and the last session will be on Friday 24th March. You must book online at www.wea.org.uk (or by telephone on 0300 303 3464) quoting reference no C2229293. The cost is £56. (For further details, contact wenhaston.branch@wea.ac.uk or tel 01502 478977).

Founded in 1903, the Workers' Educational Association is a charity dedicated to bringing high-quality, professional education into the heart of communities. It delivers friendly, accessible and enjoyable courses for adults from all walks of life.

Why not join a very friendly band of students; we always look forward to seeing new recruits as well as previous attendees.

Get on-line or the telephone to book your place straight away.

Wissett

Correspondent Nick Evans

01986 872372

nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

St Andrew's Church, Wissett

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

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



Just over a month ago we were enjoying the little summer of St Martin: then, suddenly came sharp

winter, not particularly associated with St Nicholas, and in truth not wildly unusual for December. 'He scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes', inconvenient or worse, but at times no less beautiful, and favourable for the small benefit of keeping warm by raking up yet more leaves.

Next, rain and The Beck running again, before calm and intense silence on Christmas Day.

We are very grateful to all those who worked to deliver the Team Christmas card to every house in the civil parish, with helpful details of everything to come.

November finished with the Patronal Festival, well-supplied with adventurous fishy food from Mary Pester which was enjoyed by a larger congregation than in recent years, though more senior members look back on fair crowds twenty years ago or more.

In contrast, numbers have held up well for the Carol Service, and this year increased to more than eighty; the collection for *Save the Children* raised more than £300.

More came to the Crib Service, too, but once again no young children; the PCC will be thinking about this format, which has become rather controversial.

No such questions with Holy Communion on Christmas morning, celebrated by Gini, very joyful. Most of us were not compelled by kitchen duties to hurry away from sociable drinks and cakes afterwards.

Visitors came to all of these services, and we heard many tell of their delight in the atmosphere of the decorated church: we have Susan Fitch and her team to thank for this.

Our first service of 2023: the **Epiphany Service of Light on Friday 6th January at 6.30pm.**

Two days later, **8th January is Plough Sunday**, and the service is here in Wissett at **10am**, meditating on contemporary agricultural practice, and in thanks for thousands of years of hard labour, cultivating the land all around us and providing our food.

A new year urges us to move on from the exhaustion of all festivities and overcome avoidance of all that we ought to have done, i.e. for some Treasurers, facing up to the spreadsheets for 2021.

ST MARY'S HANDBELL RINGERS, HALESWORTH

WE ARE BACK!

The team has had a really successful year after the uncertainty of the previous months, when we were unable to meet for practices. Team numbers have doubled, new music has been 'aired' and the future looks bright! We applied for a re-start grant from Community Action Suffolk and we are truly grateful to them for this support. The grant enabled us to have our Malmark bells overhauled [thank you Mark], purchase an additional bell and sundry resources.

We held a very successful workshop in Halesworth Library in the Spring; people were queuing at the door and joined us in our programme of patriotic and traditional music for this Jubilee Year. We have another one planned in early December; the programme will be seasonal music of course!

We have also been busy in the local and wider community, entertaining local organisations. Upcoming engagements are in Lowestoft, Woodbridge and Reydon. It is particularly pleasing to be 'allowed' to entertain residents of care homes once again and we are now taking bookings for 2023. We can tailor our programme to meet your needs; youth and adult groups, residential and care homes, schools and weddings [where maybe the church does not have tower bells].

If you would like more information or would like to come along to one of our practices, please contact me on l.sherman654@btinternet.com or 01986 798397 or 07789 365229.

Linda Sherman



HALESWORTH AND DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Our year came to an end on December 5th with a wonderful Christmas lunch at the Halesworth Golf Club. There was a very jolly festive atmosphere, and our lady guests were each presented with a little silver bookmark.

2022 was a very busy and successful year for the Probus Club. We welcomed several new members, had three excellent social events and enjoyed two celebration lunches at the Halesworth Golf Club.

We are now set to resume our normal activities, with a coffee morning for members and prospective members on the first Monday monthly, and lunch at The Angel Hotel on the third Monday. Our lunch meetings always include an after-lunch talk from a visiting speaker, and these talks cover a very wide range of topics, from creating sauces to working on the Halesworth to Southwold Railway.

We welcome enquiries from those wishing to join, and our Secretary Ray Roy can be contacted on 01986 872752.

On behalf of the Probus Club may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

John Wood

Halesworth Volunteers

WELCOME WEDNESDAYS: LUNCH TIME!

All Welcome

25.01.23
12.30 - 2.30PM

St Mary's Church
Halesworth

Includes free baby clothes and uniform exchange

Please call 01986 875941 if you would like to come along

Community Larder

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH

EVERYBODY WELCOME

WELCOME WEDNESDAYS - COFFEE TIME

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Come and enjoy tea, coffee, cake, chat and many other blessings!

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.30 - 12.00

Pastoral Care and Ministry in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry



Within the Blyth Valley Team Ministry, the Revd Linda Berry and I are taking the lead on sustaining and developing our Pastoral Care and Ministry. During 2023, we plan to work with our congregations to ensure we are offering the pastoral care that is needed, whilst ensuring that what we offer is appropriate and sustainable.

There are many ways in which we in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry are already a caring church in our communities. Within each parish there are people who visit those who are vulnerable, lonely or sick. Initiatives like online "Café Church," "Welcome Wednesdays" at St Mary's Halesworth, the monthly "Labyrinth Walk and Reflection" sessions, are all ways we connect with others in friendship and faith. In recent months, under the leadership of the Revd Linda Berry, we have restarted regular services and visiting in our local care homes.

In addition, we have a small group of people who form our Pastoral Ministry Team. These people are able to offer more focused support to people who are really struggling or who are recently bereaved. The team is small and is currently made up of people who already have a lot of demands on their time. Members of the team had some initial training to ensure they could support others within appropriate boundaries.

Moving forward, we would like to:

- Recruit some new members to our Pastoral Ministry Team (including people who are doing this sort of work already, so we can offer them support).
- Offer opportunities for any parishioner to find out about what support there is for people in our local communities and how to access this.
- Ensure each parish is supported to meet the needs of their parishioners. This includes following up people who used to attend church but who, since Covid or through growing disabilities may find it more difficult.
- Expand our provision of Home Communion for people unable to attend church.

If you would like to find out more about joining the Pastoral Ministry Team or would like to talk about pastoral care in general, please contact myself or Linda.

Our approach to Pastoral Care and Ministry is to be an agenda item at Team Council and PCCs in the coming months.

Revd Alison Alder



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THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

Tuesday 10th January:

Frederic Lord Leighton: Eminent Victorian Artist

Lecturer: Daniel Robbins

Tuesday 14th February: What Is An Original Print?

Lecturer: Susan Owens

Lectures commence at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre
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Visitors and Members' guests welcome, at an entrance fee of £8

Time for reflection - Walking the Labyrinth

First Monday
 of every month

2pm - 4pm

St Peter's Church, Holton

Everyone welcome

The labyrinth on the paddock at St Peter's Church, Holton, is a quiet space where people can have a peaceful walk, think through an issue in their lives, grieve for a loved one, or simply enjoy the beauty around them.

Some find it a place to pray.

There will be other reflective activities in the church.

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

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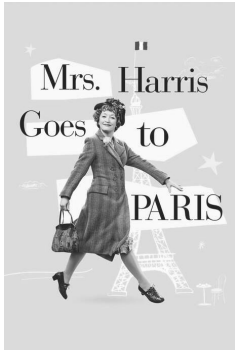
Led by an experienced bereavement group facilitator, in association with Rosedale Funeral Home, Halesworth.

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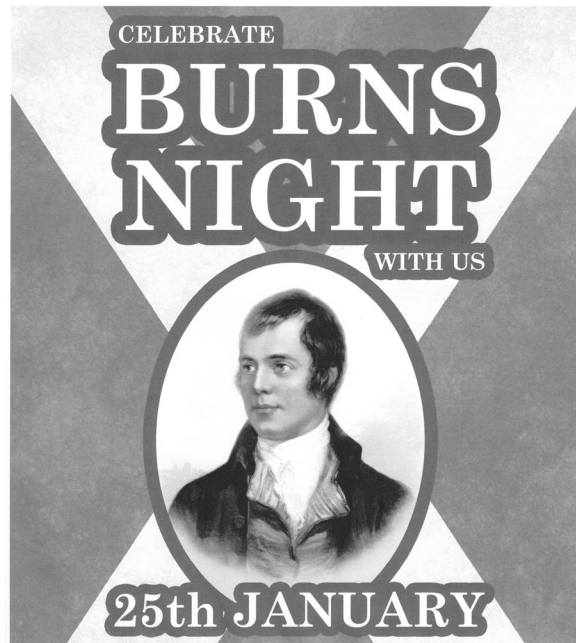
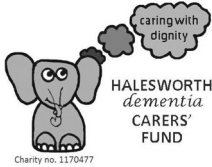
This complimentary course welcomes everyone, no matter how long ago you were bereaved, or which funeral director you used.

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.

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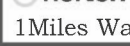
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Our tasks are:

- co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the use (mission) of the church.*
 - looking after the financial affairs of the church including fundraising.
 - maintaining the church building and its contents.
- * e.g. for use as public space for worship, exhibitions, swap shops, carols, local produce sales, gigs, plays, community lunches, funerals, meetings, Larder collection points etc...

Each council has three main officers:

Churchwardens who look after the events and maintenance programme of the church.

Treasurers who keep accounts and an eye on budgets supporting fundraising.

Secretaries do the paperwork for the four or so meetings a year, the key one being the AGM, and support programme planning.

Each parish is an independent charity. Members are voluntary trustees who can sometimes feel inadequate and sometimes inexperienced. You do not need to be religious, though believing in the worth of the building and what it stands for in the broadest of terms does help!

We offer Diocesan and local training and have WhatsApp groups running for day to day support, and have monthly or quarterly informal get-togethers depending on the role. A number of our PCCs are either entirely new or their members are now fulfilling the officer roles for the first time.

Church Councils especially keen to hear from potential recruits are:

Blyford, Bramfield, Halesworth, Holton and Thorington.

Do get in touch with Dominic (07743 554955. Email: dominic.doble@phonecoop.coop) to find out more.

He's waiting for your call!