

# Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

January 2021

Volume 42

Issue 1

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Minimum Donation

## Christmas 2020 at St Peter's Church Holton



Step 1 - Construction gets underway ...



Step 2 - It's beginning to take shape ...



The finished tree! During Lockdown 1, Holton parishioners Chris and Helen Knevett, had the idea to make a hand-crafted Christmas Tree to display outside St Peter's Church in Holton. Thank you to all those who have crocheted, knitted or sewn squares to make such a wonderful tree.

*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](mailto:blyth.valley.times@gmail.com)

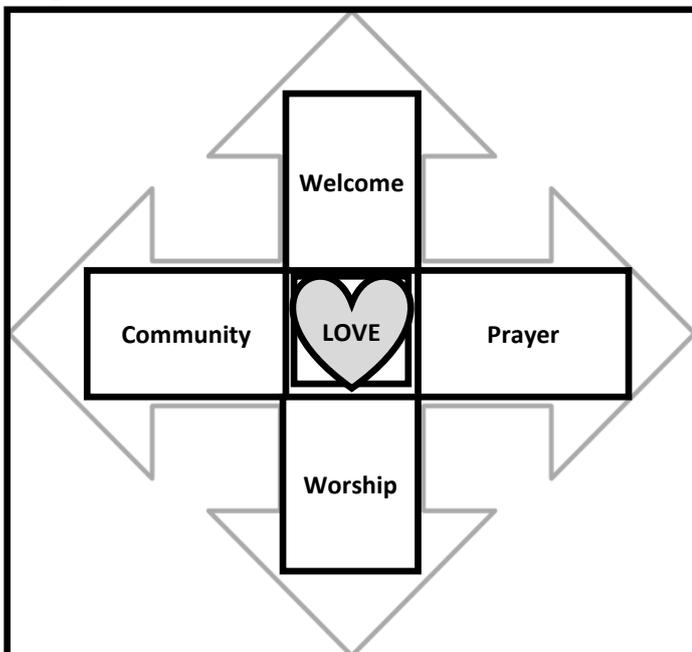
*Blyford - Bramfield - Chediston - Halesworth - Holton - Linstead - Spexhall - Thorington - Walpole - Wenhaston - Wissett. With Heveningham with Ubbeston, Huntingfield and Cookley.*

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*Wishing you  
a very  
Happy New Year  
From the clergy,  
readers, lay elders  
and all who serve  
in the  
Blyth Valley  
Team Ministry*

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## **Sunday Readings**

<b>3 January</b> <b>Epiphany</b> Psalm 72 Isaiah 60,1-6 Ephesians 3,1-12 Matthew 2,7-22	<b>24 January</b> <b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b> Psalm 128 Genesis 14,17-20 Revelation 19,6-10 John 2,1-11
<b>10 January</b> <b>First Sunday of Epiphany</b> Psalm 29 Genesis 1,1-5 Acts 19,1-7 Mark 1,4-11	<b>31 January</b> <b>Candlemas the presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> Psalm 24 Malachi 3,1-5 Hebrews 2,14-end Luke 2,22-40
<b>17 January</b> <b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b> Psalm 139,1-5,12-18 1 Sam 3,1-10[11-20] Revelation 5,1-10 John 1,43-end	<b>7 February</b> <b>Second Sunday before Lent</b> Psalm 104,26-end Proverbs 104,26-end Colossians 1,15-20 John 1,1-14

## **BVTM Team Office**

Due to the on-going Covid-19 situation, the Team Administrator is mainly working from home, (Tuesdays - Fridays, 9am-1pm).

The Team office in St Mary's Church is therefore currently operating reduced opening hours.

To contact the Team Administrator, please telephone 07752 275328.

Or email: [office.bvtm@gmail.com](mailto:office.bvtm@gmail.com)

*(Please use the above BVTM office mobile number, rather than the Team office landline number during this period).*

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

Email: [jane@janeheld.co.uk](mailto:jane@janeheld.co.uk)

### Blyth Valley Team Ministry - Rota for January 2021

This rota may change – always check our website: [www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk) or telephone Revd Jane or Revd Alison

Worship in the Blyth Valley in January 2021					
Year B – Track 2	3rd January Epiphany  White	10th January Baptism of Christ  White	17th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany  White	24th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany  White	31st January Candlemas  White
Group 1					
Halesworth St Mary	10.00 Team Service Alison	10.00 Eucharist Alison	10.00 BCP Eucharist Jane	10.00 Iona Worship Jason	10.00 Team Service Jane
Holton St Peter	To Team Service	To Halesworth	11.15 Iona Worship John	11.15 Eucharist Malcolm	To Team Service
Group 2					
Wenhaston St Peter	To Team Service	To Bramfield	11.15 Eucharist Alison	11.15 Pause for Thought Alison	To Team Service
Bramfield St Andrew	To Team Service	11.15 Eucharist Vic	To Wenhaston	To Wenhaston	To Team Service
Blyford All Saints	To Team Service	To Bramfield	To Wenhaston	To either	To Team Service
Thorington St Peter	To Team Service	To Bramfield	To Wenhaston	To either	To Team Service
Group 3					
Chediston St Mary	To Team Service	To Wissett	09.30 Eucharist Vic	To Wissett	To Team Service
Wissett St Andrew	To Team Service	10.00 Eucharist and Plough Blessing David	To Chediston	10.00 Eucharist Vic	To Team Service
Spexhall St Peter	To Team Service	To either	To Chediston	To Wissett	To Team Service
Linstead St Margaret	To Team Service	To either	To Chediston	To Wissett	To Team Service
Group 4					
Cookley St Michael	To Team Service	To Heveningham	09.30 Mass Fr Jonathan	To Huntingfield	To Team Service
Heveningham St Margaret	To Team Service	09.30 Eucharist Margaret King	To Cookley	To Huntingfield	To Team Service
Huntingfield St Mary	To Team Service	To Heveningham	To Cookley	10.00 Eucharist Jane	To Team Service
On-line					
Facebook:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 09.00		Saturday 09.30 Sunday 10.00		Monday-Sunday 21.30
ZOOM	Café Worship 10.00 Wednesdays			Sunday Eucharist St Mary's 10.00	
Weekday	Each Thursday 09.30 Bramfield Morning Worship Robert			6th January 18.30 Epiphany Wissett Anna	

**HEALTH WARNING: ALL SERVICES SUBJECT TO SUDDEN CHANGE – PLEASE CHECK IN ADVANCE WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCHWARDEN, CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 16 OF THIS ISSUE**

## Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

We have hope to continue holding **gathered worship every Sunday @ 11am**, provided there isn't a further lockdown.

Be we are also continuing online: Services on Zoom remain available, including:

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

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

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

**Messy Church** and additional events as announced.

All events accessed via Zoom or Youtube.

**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



## Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Peter Rayson

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.30am

JANUARY 2021

- 3 LA
- 10 The Revd Peter Rayson, Covenant
- 17 Julie Warren
- 24 The Revd Clive Sutcliffe
- 31 The Revd Pam Bayliss

These services will take place according to current restrictions in force.  
**PLEASE WEAR A FACEMASK**

## St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church, Halesworth

*Mass available on Sundays, 9am;  
and Wednesdays and Fridays 10am.*

## LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS  
IN DECEMBER 2020  
FUNERAL SERVICES/  
INTERMENT OF ASHES:

Eileen Muriel Small at Waveney Memorial Park  
Alisa Anne Burrough at Waveney Memorial Park  
Christopher Phillip Golding at St Peter's Thorington

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# The Revd Jane Held writes ...

It is certainly not a Christmas like we are used to! After such a long hard nine months of pandemic life we are all weary and worn by the constant grind of changing rules, uncertainty, limitations on our planning, decision making, family life and every aspect of daily living. Although the Government has given us a few days of "Covid-19 amnesty" over Christmas, many of us are anxious about the implications, or struggling to manage travel challenges and safe ways to celebrate as families, and even more of us concerned about the post-Christmas impact on infection rates. Locally at present they are rising which is a worry. And many families, far too many, will be looking at a Christmas without the one they love, who, with over 60,000 others, has died as a result of Covid-19.

I am sure for all of us it sometimes feels as if we are poised at the edge of an abyss where we can fall at any moment, or maybe just standing at a fork in the road deciding which road to take. It's a dangerous time for our world, a real turning point maybe.

So, Christmas is both far more limited than usual but also carrying far more weight of expectation, meaning and anxiety. Despite (or perhaps because of) that, people are creatively finding so very many ways to celebrate, and to bring sparkle, and happiness, excitement and anticipation into the daily grimness. There seem to be far more decorations, up and sparkling outside and inside, earlier than usual. People are also generously donating a huge amount to help others as well, so overwhelmingly so – and it is needed much more too.

The new found neighbourliness has not been lost once lockdown eased either. Acts of kindness abound and thinking about others has become a valued part of social media news as much as everyday life. Ethical and moral values are being praised not ignored and discarded as irrelevant to modern life. People are searching and seeking for more meaning, discussing the value and purpose of human life, the need to change the way we live. We are realizing the huge crisis we face in the way we have treated our planet for far too long is threatening the survival of humanity itself and that individualism is a dead-end road to travel.

It may seem hopelessly naïve and far too optimistic but in the same way the arrival of a vaccine which should in time reduce if not eradicate the threat of Covid-19 introduces hope for our future world, the reappearance of human care for each other brings hope too. Both are very fragile threads of hope perhaps. But the birth of Christ was a fragile thread too. A tiny little baby, born in somewhat squalid conditions to an obscure carpenter and his new young wife... an everyday occurrence and yet cataclysmic in its impact. Isaiah had it right. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light". Christ's birth, simple, bare, stripped back to its fundamental meaning,

was a great light of hope, shining into a dark world, the new dawn, the arrival of hopefulness in a world of challenges and hopelessness. The promise of a new heaven and a new earth made real, the opportunity to not fear for the future but to long for it, and to embrace its expectations of us.

Of course, humanity being humanity some 2,000 plus years later we have still not cracked it. Each of us has to find our own understanding, our own relationship with God and our own way to meet God's expectations of us. Collectively we need to nurture the ways of behaving that bring positive outcomes one for the other and care for humanity and the world we are responsible for.

But a simple stripped back Christmas reminds us that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible gift of love. And it is love that strengthens those fragile strands of hope. So whatever else is missing this Christmas let us remember that amazing Christmas gift of unending total love, that promise of the kingdom here on earth and carry that forward into a new and loving 2021. May I wish you all, on behalf of myself and the ministry team, a loving Christmas and a very positive, hopeful and promising New Year.

**Love and Danger by Ruth Burgess**

Christmas Day:  
angels and stars,  
shepherds and travellers,  
a new born child.

An old story  
full of love and danger,  
laying bare the beauty  
of an amazing God.



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## Blyth Valley Team Ministry

*OPEN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP  
STILL PRAYING*

Sunday worship on ZOOM at 10.00am every Sunday, ID 892 3344 9437. Passcode 253438

CAFÉ WORSHIP 10am every Wednesday (for access contact Revd Jane or Revd Alison)



Live Morning Worship on Facebook 9am. Live Night prayer on Facebook  
9.30pm



Facebook = Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk

Weekday worship - Bramfield Thursdays 9.30am

### Churches currently open FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

Chediston St Mary — Wednesdays and Sundays 10am-4pm

Halesworth St Mary — 10am-12pm daily

Heveningham St Margaret — Wednesdays 10am-12pm

Huntingfield St Mary — 10am-4pm daily

Linstead St Margaret — by appointment (call 01986 785289)

Wenhaston St Peter — by appointment (call 01502 478855)

Wissett St Andrew — every day 10am-4pm

### STILL CLOSED:

Blyford All Saints

Holton St Peter

Spexhall St Peter

Thorington St Peter

Walpole St Mary

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR SUNDAY SERVICES IN CHURCHES

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



**THIS YEAR,  
MANY OF THE CHURCHES  
IN THE BVTM  
DISPLAYED BEAUTIFULLY  
DECORATED CHRISTMAS  
TREES OUTSIDE.  
Our photographs  
show the  
Christmas Trees at  
St Andrew's Bramfield  
and St Peter's Spexhall**



### **Volunteers needed!**

We currently need volunteers for various roles in the **Blyth Valley Team Ministry**, please speak to the Revd Jane if you are interested in any of them.

- ❖ A volunteer to help manage our live stream, and video activity at services and to help in editing videos.
- ❖ Volunteers to go onto the Flower Rota at St Mary's Halesworth - please let John Ball, who is now doing the Flower Rota, know.
- ❖ Volunteers to lead intercessions, read readings, or help as stewards at services.
- ❖ Volunteers to act as welcomers and stewards at churches across the Team.

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## St Mary's, Halesworth Receipts Summary November 2020

Planned Giving	£1401.00
Gift Aid	£181.00
Fees	£183.00
Collections	£330.00
General	£31.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£2126.00</u></b>

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## News from Churches Together

We were saddened that it proved necessary through circumstances to cancel the drive-in carol service.

As things begin to improve in the New Year, we will look again at what we can offer to you all – and to those you would invite.

But meanwhile, the next prayer gathering (still on Zoom, rather than physically gathered as such) will be on **Saturday 23rd January @ 11am**. Phone (01986 873761) or send me an email: [jon@sermons.me.uk](mailto:jon@sermons.me.uk) for Zoom joining instructions. Let's renew our determination, together, to pray God's blessing and healing on our community!

You can also access my regular 'encouragement videos' via the Churches Together Blyth Valley Facebook page or on Youtube at 'Jon Sermon'.

Blessings

Jon



## HORSE & GARDEN



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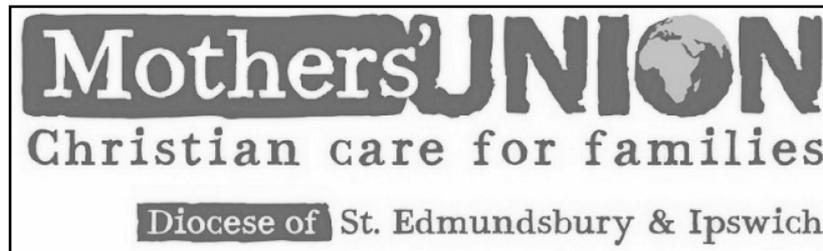
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The Mothers' Union theme for this year is *Building Hope and Confidence*. With this in mind Mothers' Union has partnered with *Together* a charity who's aim is to bring grass root organisations such as NHS MU Scouts etc closer together.

Midday prayers keep members around the world in touch. For UK members that don't have access to the internet they

can listen thanks to the Church of England's daily hope line. Just call 0800 804 8044 and press option 8.

Let's hope that it won't be too long before we can all meet up again. With my very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Win

## Volunteers needed to support local COVID-19 vaccination programme

**We have been requested to bring the following request to the attention of all the faith groups in Suffolk:-**

### Volunteers needed to support local COVID-19 vaccination programme

Your local NHS is getting ready to deliver a COVID-19 vaccination programme and they need your help. They are looking for volunteer stewards across Essex and Suffolk to be at the forefront of the local fight against the virus – you could be part of it!

As a volunteer steward, you will help the vaccination process run smoothly and safely.

Local vaccination stations will be open from 8am-8pm, seven days a week. Volunteers are asked to commit to individual sessions of four hours, plus 15 minutes handover time.

**This is an exciting opportunity to play your part in protecting the community and saving lives.**

If you are interested in volunteering please email: [epunft.businesssupport.volunteering@nhs.net](mailto:epunft.businesssupport.volunteering@nhs.net)

For more information visit:

<https://eput.nhs.uk/vaccine-recruitment>

### Run out of books to read? BOOK EXCHANGE Halesworth Library with HVC and BVTM



- At St Mary's Church, Halesworth
- Saturdays and Wednesdays 10.30am - 11.30am
- Thursdays 9.30am - 10.30am
- Come and collect up to six books
- All books quarantined on return for 72 hours (for safety)
- Social Distancing and hand hygiene apply
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## News from our Sister Churches

## HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

I have to write this well before Christmas, because of  
BVTimes publication dates, but it reaches you with:

*"Happy New Year"*

News of the close of the old year includes that worship  
continues to be mainly online, but with some gatherings. We  
have had Halesworth folk join the Lowestoft Advent Bible  
Studies, because it was on Zoom. This also enabled people  
from Uganda coming on the Alpha course!

One of our highlights - in the run up to Christmas - was the  
'Angel Treasure Hunt' that Jo organised, as families with  
young children (primarily) searched for angels we had placed  
in shops around the town: a reminder that angels brought  
good news of the coming of Jesus!

Love came down at Christmas: The whole build up of Advent,  
and through Christmas itself is celebrating the Love of God  
breaking into human experience. And this comes to fruition  
with Easter! The context of all ministry is love - "We love  
because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

Our prayer, as the prospect of the vaccine roll-out gives a  
'light at the end of the tunnel' is that God will equip His  
Church, in the Power of the Holy Spirit, so that we may reflect  
Jesus, the Light of the World. As witnesses to Jesus, Christ,  
may we all be used to bring others - who will be searching for  
answers in the light of what we've all been through - to Jesus.

Lord, build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Blessings

Jon



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# HALESWORTH & VILLAGES COMMUNITY LARDER

On Saturday 12th December, Bikers for Basics brought the Community Larder some welcomed fresh basics.

Thanks guys - really great.

Thank you, too, to the most amazing stream of families and couples who all arrived and emptied their car boots which were full of fabulous food as donations.

A great Christmas is going to be possible for many who would otherwise be having a bit of a thin time of it. **THANK YOU ALL!**



Halesworth and the Villages

## THE COMMUNITY LARDER

HAS MOVED TO

### ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

STEEPLE END

### HALESWORTH

300 metres further along the road from the church

**OPENING HOURS:**

Wednesdays 10.30am - 11.30am  
 Thursdays 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Saturdays 10.30am - 11.30am

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE**

## HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL  
 Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

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

Come along and you can:

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2. **BRING & TAKE** Food
3. **TAKE** food and donate ££
4. Or just **TAKE** food if you are in need

Run by: HVC with St Mary's Church & BVTM supported by donations

## PLENTY OF FOOD TO SHARE



## HALESWORTH DEMENTIA CARERS' FUND (HDCF)

### Co-op Local Community Fund

We are delighted to inform you that Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to help us raise funds for your local dementia charity. Our local Co-op foodstore in Halesworth is an independent Co-op, so is not part of this scheme, however Laxfield Co-op Foodstore, Rackham's Funeral Care Diss and Woolnough's Funeral Care Halesworth, are participants. We would like to encourage everyone who intends to use any of the above services to apply for a blue Co-op card, and those who have a blue Co-op card to support us. (You are encouraged to have, and use, both Co-op membership cards). We would be very grateful if you are members of this group to select us as your Cause and perhaps consider donating your personal allowance to us. You can join online at [coop.co.uk/membership](http://coop.co.uk/membership), or by downloading the Co-op App. When you buy selected Co-op products and services, including funeral arrangements, 2p in every £1 goes into your Co-op Membership Account, and the Co-op will give the same amount to support community organisations. There are three good causes this year and we hope you will feel able to support us.

HDCF raises money to ensure local people with dementia and their carers are provided with respite care, information and support. The Coronavirus Pandemic has prevented us from doing any fund-raising this year, so your help with this project is even more important. Our "Cause" profile giving information about HDCF can be viewed on [www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/52325](http://www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/52325), and we will keep you informed monthly on how we are getting on. Please phone Jim (07485 166542) if you would like further information.

#### From Our Secretary, Dave Rich

We have had a half-yearly report from Daniel Schaffer, Dementia Connect Local Services Manager who said:- "Alice Sparksman has been a consistent presence with the Halesworth Dementia Support service over the last six months. This has been vitally important as it has enabled

relationships to be maintained and provided additional assurance to clients at a challenging time. Alice is seconded from the Alzheimer's Society for two days a week and has been working remotely since March 2020.

Alice has continued to support those carers who require regular contact or who have support needs, and delivers a high quality and intensive service to those who require support with dementia-related issues.

The service delivery looks different from other years through not being able to provide face to face services, but Alice has been able to extend her reach and support through this challenging period. This has presented a challenge in its own right as the level of support required, the technical and emotional complexity of the work, and the lack of face to face peer support has had an impact on Alice.

Although new referrals have decreased over the last six months, significant interactions and time directly spent with clients has risen dramatically, doubling to 8530 hours".

HDCF has had its first virtual meeting, and this was also our seventh AGM. Chairman Teresa Fyfe welcomed four new Trustees – Bill Ellis, John Wood, Geoff Cackett, and Iris Smith who has taken over as Treasurer from Mary Pennock who has done such a great job over the last four years.

The committee received Annual Reports and Accounts from the previous year.

Sadly, we have said farewell to two members, Tessa Harding who was a founder member and Patricia Flegg who dealt with publicity. Both will be greatly missed and we wish them well.

Chairman Teresa thanked all the committee members for their hard work during the lockdown, reaching out and keeping in touch with the carers.

Thanks also go to Alison Cackett for the knitted dishcloths and to Tracy Excell for her social media updates. We extend our thanks to Jill Reece, our Town Council representative, for her interest in the Fund and feedback from the Council. Our Patron, Paddy Cox, added his thanks to the Committee for all their hard work and the help given to the people of Halesworth.

John Wood, HDCF Publicity Officer

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Keep warm & safe this winter



# A Touch of the Funnies

By Bryan Samain

Local author, Bryan Samain, has just produced a small booklet designed to offset Covid-19 gloom. Entitled *A Touch of the Funnies*, the booklet is being sent to all members of the Halesworth Probus Club (of which Bryan is a long-standing member) and also his family and friends.

The booklet is an offering of light-hearted Seasonal cheer, culled from long-buried personal files and other records by Bryan.

We are very grateful to Bryan who has granted permission for us to reproduce some of the stories from the booklet in *BVTimes*. The first extract from the booklet is reproduced below:

## THE ECCENTRIC DRAGOON

One February afternoon in 1946, Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred D Wintle, formerly of the 1st Royal Dragoons, wrote the following to the Editor of *The Times* from his Piccadilly Club:

Sir, I have just written you a long letter. On reading it over I have thrown it into the wastepaper basket. Hoping this meets with your approval, I am, Sir, your obedient servant, A D Wintle.

This note to the Editor was of course never published, but it remains a treasured item in *The Times* archives. Wintle, a monocled professional cavalry officer, had served in both World Wars, was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Military Cross. He was brave, intelligent and tenacious, but in all respects a highly eccentric character.

Stories about him were legion. As a wartime POW he escaped from prison dressed in a nurse's uniform - only to be arrested

soon afterwards because he had forgotten to remove his monocle. On another occasion he went on hunger strike because he considered his German guards to be slovenly and thoroughly badly turned out.

In the late 1960's his persistence in finally winning a three-year battle against a dishonest solicitor, without any professional legal help on his own part, culminated in a victorious hearing in the House of Lords and gained him massive Press publicity. (His vendetta against the solicitor had earlier included confronting the man in his office, ordering him to take his trousers off and then making him stand in the corner wearing a dunce's hat).

I met Wintle at a cocktail party in London in the 1960's. He was a small bow-legged man with a neatly clipped moustache, wearing a glinting monocle in his right eye. Frank Owen, a former Editor of the *Daily Mail*, who was giving the party, introduced me. "This is Bryan Samain", he said. "Oh I say", said Wintle, adjusting his monocle as he looked at me. "Did you say Bryant and May?"

I warmed to Wintle immediately. Boxes of matches could not be further from my mind.



*Happy Christmas  
And a Peaceful New Year*

*To all my friends*

*From Irene Thomas*

*Irene will not be sending Christmas Cards this year,  
instead she will be making a donation to the  
Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund*

### BVTM EMAIL ADDRESSES

#### **BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY**

#### **OFFICE:**

**office.bvtm@gmail.com**

#### **BLYTH VALLEY TEAM TREASURER:**

**treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com**

#### **BLYTH VALLEY TIMES:**

**blyth.valley.times@gmail.com**

**Office hours (Home):**

**Tues to Fri 9am - 1pm.**

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## Acting to Protect our Environment

### Establishing the Blyth Valley Environment Network

Setting up a “Blyth Valley Environment Network” is a way to explore and promote what we can actually do to protect the environment and work for climate justice. We held our first meeting on November 3rd and agreed that there were three ways in which we could usefully operate:

- 1 To provide a forum for different local groups, so they can promote what they are doing and link up with the knowledge and experience of other groups and initiatives.
- 2 To increase appreciation in our communities of the natural world and its many benefits for our lives. This includes building up work with young people and families.
- 3 To join in the campaigns which are fighting for action on national and international levels to tackle the climate crisis and issues around climate justice.

At the Zoom meeting we heard about the “Parish Environmental Management Plan” (EMP) for Wenhaston and discussed how a Blyth Valley Environment Network could support this plan. Wenhaston already has some key projects running. The Commons Group works in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Parish Council to manage the five commons in the village. Blyth Woods manages some existing areas of woodland and works to purchase and develop new woodland in the village. They have worked closely with the village primary school, which has its own tree nursery. The Swift Action Group has encouraged villagers to put up swift nesting boxes to replace the loss of nesting sites in buildings over recent years. There are even four nest boxes in the church tower. Several villagers are working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to manage and monitor the River Blyth and its tributaries. The Environment Management Plan for Wenhaston has four key aims:

- To improve the environmental value of our local parish.
- To encourage cooperation between communities, the public sector, landowners and farmers.
- To encourage volunteering and enabling involvement of people in sustaining and caring for the local environment.
- To create a local initiative that could serve as a model for effective change and has potential for a wider roll out.
- To encourage other parishes to develop EMPs and so create a cluster that will deliver greater impact.

- To develop a clear statement on the current environmental state of the parish and develop agreed action plans to make change happen.

We also heard from Martin Dominic, a member of the URC church who, for many years, has been following the evidence of climate change and is deeply concerned about its impact on the future of the planet. He updated us on some of the latest manifestations of global warming and led us in a discussion about the vital importance of moving to sustainable lifestyles. From a Christian perspective, the implications of climate change confront us with our call to be stewards of God’s creation and to ensure social justice for all. Many of us are aware that without drastic action, parts of the world will become uninhabitable by the end of the century, leading to mass migration on a scale never before imagined. And it is the lifestyles of the wealthiest countries in the world that are damaging the viability of the poorest countries. Charities like Christian Aid are currently campaigning for Climate Justice, particularly as we begin to rebuild our economies after the pandemic. Hearing and responding to their prophetic voice is a vital way for Christians to respond. What can you do?

At the moment our work will mainly be via Zoom, but don’t let this put you off. We can post campaign details to people or discuss ideas over the phone.

- ✓Join our network. To do this contact Revd Alison Alder at [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) or 01502 478855/07584414277. Our next meeting will be in January and will focus on “Living Sustainably”.
- ✓Join our campaigning group. Contact Revd Alison Alder or Revd Linda Berry for more details.
- ✓Explore as individuals and as a team “A Rocha UK (ARUK)”, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. Reflect and share what you think the Blyth Valley Team could be doing. (If you are not online, Linda or I can send you some details about this organisation).
- ✓Pray – Resources will be made available in January. Contact Alison or Linda for further details.
- ✓Enjoy and celebrate God’s Creation in any way you can.

We cannot change the current crisis on our own but we can take small steps to be part of the solution. I hope and pray you will support us.

**Revd Alison Alder**

#### Run out of books to read?

#### BOOK EXCHANGE

#### Halesworth Library with HVC and BVTM

- \* At St Mary’s Church, Halesworth
- \* Saturdays and Wednesdays 10.30am - 11.30am
- \* Thursdays 9.30am - 10.30am
- \* Come and collect up to six books
- \* All books quarantined on return for 72 hours (for safety)
- \* Social distancing and hand hygiene apply
- \* All books from Halesworth Library from stock that was withdrawn before Lockdown



#### Monthly Action for Climate Justice



Visit the Christian Aid website, read what they are doing to promote climate justice and sign their petition:  
“Demand a New Deal for Climate Justice.”

Visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)  
or contact Revd Alison or Revd Linda for more details.

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Huntingfield Church  
Cordially invites you to an outdoor

## CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020  
17:45

Venue: Huntingfield Churchyard

This will be an impromptu short Carol Service with social distancing rules applied. Please come if you would like to sing a few traditional carols. Carol sheets will be supplied. If you have any requests for a particular Carol please e-mail Tony Morelli at [tony.morelli@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.morelli@btinternet.com) and we will try and accommodate as many requests as possible. Mulled wine, soft drinks & mince pies will be available as sustenance for singers, subject to compliance with Covid-19 requirements.

Please also note, there will be a formal religious service held in the church commencing at 18:30, but the numbers here are constrained by Covid distancing regulations. If you would like to book attendance please contact Emma Ward (Church Warden) on 01986 785343. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

## SPEXHALL ST PETER CHRISTMAS TREE SERVICE

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
6pm OUTSIDE CHURCH



**SINGING CAROLS (with a story too)**  
**Wrap up warm - bring torches - facemasks**  
**Covid-secure distancing rules**  
**MINCE PIES, CAKE AND MULLED WINE**  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**  
**Sorry Santa is in quarantine!**

The Children's Society

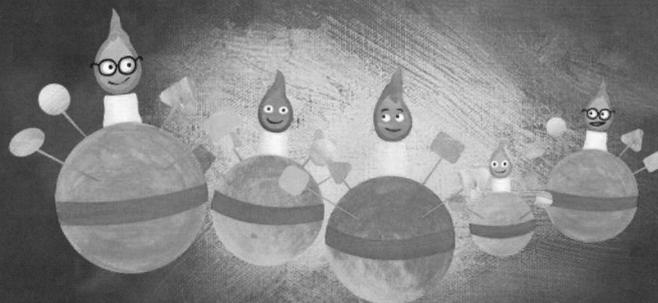


If you're planning on joining this year's Christingle Service from home via zoom, we have some ready-made goody bags packed with all the bits you'll need to host your own fabulous Christingle.

**You can collect your bag from us at:**  
**9am-9.15am then 1pm-1.15pm**  
**on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec**  
**from outside the tower doors @**  
**St. Mary's Halesworth**  
**See you then!**

[Christingle.org](http://Christingle.org) / [blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://blythvalleychurches.org.uk)

The Children's Society



**Join us to share the light**  
**at our Christingle**

Due to Covid restrictions we cannot celebrate Christingle as we normally would on Christmas Eve. We would love for you to join us in Church or at home via zoom at our Christingle celebration and bring hope to more children's lives.

**Date:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec @ 2pm  
**Location:** St. Mary's Church Halesworth  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL:** Please call Jane Held on 07771 556391 or to book your seats  
**Online link:** Join us from home via ZOOM ID 892 3344 9437 Pass code: 253438  
*(the link will be posted over social media as well)*

[Christingle.org](http://Christingle.org) / [blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://blythvalleychurches.org.uk)

# Blyth Valley Ministry Team



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(off duty Thursday  
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*If telephoning, please always leave a message,  
if there is no one available to take your call.*

## Team Council Contacts

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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
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## Blyth Valley Times

is published monthly by the Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

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**Wednesday 20th January 2021. Publishing date: Thursday 28th January 2021**

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**BVTM: [office.bvtm@gmail.com](mailto:office.bvtm@gmail.com)**

***BVTimes*: [blyth.valley.times@gmail.com](mailto:blyth.valley.times@gmail.com)**

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

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

***WE ARE HERE FOR YOU***

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

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

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER IN THE BLYTH VALLEY

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

• AND/OR

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

• AND/OR

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

## ECUMENICAL CLERGY

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Church Minister

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Email: [jon@sermons.me.uk](mailto:jon@sermons.me.uk)

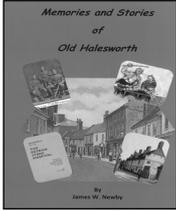
Father Richard Ireson  
Roman Catholic Priest  
St Edmund King & Martyr Roman  
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[www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk)  
for the latest information on Services etc.



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

Find us at:  
**blyth valley churches suffolk**



**CAFÉ WORSHIP**

**WEDNESDAYS – 10.00AM**

**ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US ON ZOOM**

**CONTACT Revd Jane FOR THE CODE  
TO USE TO JOIN IN**

You've made sure that your nearest and  
dearest are safe and your immediate  
circle of neighbours is sorted.

**Please let us know if there's anyone  
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- Prescriptions
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- Foodbank/vouchers



**Things are changing but  
we are still here to help.**

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or email [covid@halesworthvc.co.uk](mailto:covid@halesworthvc.co.uk)

**We must  
keep on  
protecting  
each other.**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

**STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES**



If you need help from Waveney Foodbank you will need a referral voucher. Just call one of our partner agencies:

Citizens Advice National Helpline 0808 208 2138  
 South Norfolk Early Help Hub 01508 533933  
 Halesworth Volunteer Centre 01986 875600

There are collection places for Foodbank donations in Bramfield, Chediston, St Mary's Halesworth, Halesworth Co-op, Holton, Rumburgh, Spexhall (2), Wenhaston and Wissett.

If anyone who is willing to host a box outside their home, please could you let the Revd Jane Held know: (07771 556391).



You can now donate from £1 to £100 Just text the word **FOODBOX** then the amount to **70085**.

So to donate £3 Text **FOODBOX 3** to **70085**

If you dont want further information from us Text **FOODBOXNOINFO 3** to **70085**

Texts will cost your donation amount and 2 messages

Registered charity number 1151679 registered in England and Wales



**You now need to Self-refer at all our centres**

Visiting the Foodbank is classed as an essential journey

We operate strict cleaning and social distancing measures

**Diss: Hope Church Mon –Thurs 10-12pm Fri 11-12pm**

**Beccles: St Luke's Church Mon and Fri 2-3pm**

**Beccles Baptist Church Wed 10:30-12:30**

**Halesworth: St Marys Church Wed 10:30 –11:30**

**Harleston: St Johns Church Tues 2-2:45pm Fri 3-3:45pm**

**Bungay: Community Centre Tues 10-11am Fri 2-3pm**

**Long Stratton: St Marys Church Fri 12:30—2:30pm**

**Loddon Area call 01508 521179 leave a message for**

**Poringland Area call 07707 790680 leave a message**

**Framlingham Area call 07388 791126 leave a message**

**Stradbroke Area call 01379 388493 leave a message**

**If you are struggling to afford food**

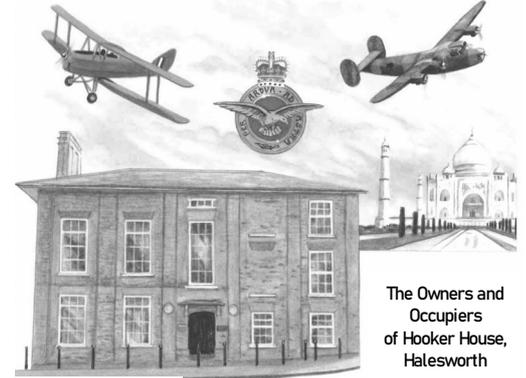
**please go to your nearest centre**

**If you are struggling to afford food**

**and self isolating call 07484 394749**

**Visiting the Foodbank is classed as an essential journey**

The Life and Times of **DEREK NEWBY**



Copies available from Halesworth Bookshop

The Owners and Occupiers of Hooker House, Halesworth

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



**Rehability**  
[www.rehability.co.uk](http://www.rehability.co.uk)

Visit our Independent Living Centre & Show Home



How our centre 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 and drinking, indoor mobility and access

- Opportunity to try out major pieces of equipment such as lifts and bath with powered seat



- Try out height adjustable profiling beds and recliner-riser chairs

- Advice on wheelchairs, powerchairs and scooters

Independent Living Centre & Show Home at **Bridge Farm, Chediston IP19 0AE** Tel: **01986 875435**  
 (2 miles west of Halesworth on the B1123)

Visit our shop at **7 Bridge Street, Halesworth IP19 8AB**  
 (opposite the Library) Tel: **01986 873803**



# News from Town & Villages

## Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442  
acackett@me.com

## Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held

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

A very short column indeed this month as I am writing before Christmas and the January edition is out before Christmas too. Such are the joys of the *BVTimes* deadline.

The outdoor Christmas tree was donated very kindly by Jeremy Thickett, and it's magnificent. Decorated with lights and stars of remembrance, it was blessed at a short service on December 13th and we declared the Christmas season up and running.

It is strange I know, not having a carol service to mark the season, but next year's will be bigger, brighter and better for having been missed out for a year.

The school hosted Mary, Joseph, the donkey and some sheep for a week (The Posada) on their journey to Bethlehem in their lovely shiny, wipe clean travel box and the Open the Book Team recorded the Christmas Story for the students to listen to ... lots of creative adaptations to our traditions, but the core message is still there. Christ was born, a frail, weak little baby, a migrant refugee child in a stable – the incarnation, whilst joyful and amazing, was a simple affair. I hope your own creative adaptations to get around the restrictions of a Covid-19 Christmas bring you as much joy and wonder as possible and that your Christmas is blessed.

## Chediston

Correspondent Sally Aldous

01986 873363

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

Hopefully, you will all have a happy Christmas. This year will have been very hard for everyone, 'fingers crossed' you will be able to see all or some of your loved ones during this difficult time. We will all be happy to see the back of 2020, so dare I say,

good wishes for 2021. The commencement of Covid-19 vaccinations is a big step in the right direction for getting us all back to "normality", although I gather masks are still to be in use for another year.

It is so very hard for all those who have lost loved ones during 2020, not being able to celebrate their lives properly due to strict rules re numbers attending funerals and also for couples unable to have their large weddings. With Christmas being simple this year, perhaps we can all concentrate on the true meaning of Christmas.

*Graeme Williams writes:*

**Chediston and Linstead WI** are not scheduled to meet again until April 2021, but in the meantime, members have been kept informed of developments by the Committee, who have delivered a Christmas card and a pretty cyclamen plant to each member. The cyclamen has many meanings, including 'friendship' and 'being able to withstand adverse conditions'. Most appropriate for our local group in 2020! We have all missed our Christmas meal, but much more our monthly meetings, often with an interesting speaker, and always with a friendly cup of tea and cake!

A number of events in Chediston have taken place in the 'black hole' between the *BVTimes* copy date and Christmas, so you will have to contain your excitement for the full reports next month!

The events include:

**Virtual Christmas Fair fundraising** – this was an attempt by church members to try and fill the gap of income lost by not being able to hold the 'real' Christmas Fair. We have had a raffle, sold Joyce Gregory's superb chutneys, jams and marmalades, sold Judy Fossett's excellent mini-Christmas cakes, and also offered festive face masks (there is no escape from the dreaded Covid-19)! We will let you know the outcome of the alternative fair in the February edition.

**Carols around the Christmas Tree** – the annual Christmas Eve Carol Service was another Covid-19 victim, but the placement of a Christmas tree outside

this year, gave us the opportunity to hold a 'Carols Around the Tree' event for village folk. Plans were for village children (and bigger children) to bring their own decorations to dress the tree. Inside church was decorated as normal – ish and we also had a new nativity tableau for carollers to wander past, in church. Once again, full report to follow.

**Themed Walking Trail** – on December 12th, Wendy Burroughes kindly organised a walking trail aimed mainly (but not exclusively) at children. Starting at the church car park, participants collected various items around the village and up to Chediston Green, finishing back at the church. Rumour has it that Santa had delivered one or two early treats for those who took part. And guess what? Full report to follow!

## Ride and Stride 2020

As a final footnote to this year's sponsored bike ride in aid of Suffolk Historical Churches Trust and Chediston church, we can confirm that the final cheque from the organisers has been received. The sum raised for Chediston alone, was a splendid £648. A huge thank you to all those who supported Oliver Wareham, John Parson and Graeme Williams so generously for their efforts. It certainly made the saddle sores worth it!

## Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby

01986 873336

At the end of November Jane posted a suggestion on the Blyth Valley Churches Facebook page: "Beginning on December 1st, read one chapter of *The Gospel according to Luke* each evening. There are 24 chapters, on Christmas Eve you will have read an



entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing *who* and *why* we celebrate" – challenge accepted.

I wasn't far into chapter one, when I was transported back to my choir boy days singing the *Magnificat* (Mary's Song of Praise) '*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*'. As I write January's article, it is only December 8th - without looking, does anyone know what chapter 8 is about? I have just read '*The Parable of the Sower*'. Confession time, all the years I have been worshipping, I can't say I have sat down, like I currently am, to read the bible. Mixed in with evening prayer live on Facebook and a chapter from Luke each evening, it has been/is being a refreshingly uplifting experience rather than being glued to my routine of getting in from work at 9.15pm, shower, watch the 10pm news, then bed.

There were many uncertainties that 2020 brought. One commentator used the word 'disoriented' to describe the Advent/Christmas period. The word 'traditional' is certainly not being used over Christmas. But the Spirit has moved us to try something new. I have been producing simple *youtube* videos of hymns and Christmas carols for all to enjoy. The Team Choir has come together for us to be moved by music in our worship. We continue to live stream worship via Zoom/Facebook (with the odd technical glitch). Producing Orders of Service being sent out by post and digitally. We will have tried a Christingle Service both in Church and live with Christingle goody bags prepared by the Busby's.

One highlight I will have enjoyed with Sarah and the girls, will be the RSCM Big Christmas Carol Service, an opportunity to embrace the joyful remembrance of our Saviour's birth live-streamed from the beautiful church of All Saints, Cambridge. But however you spend your festive time - on your own or with family or friends, everyone at St Mary's wishes you the joys of the season of Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas and the thought that '*a merry heart does good like medicine*' (Proverbs 17.22).

We haven't enjoyed a 'Hymn Meditation' for a while. "Hopkin's text is naughtily misleading. The people who visited Christ from eastern lands were not kings, nor were there specifically



three of them". This is probably the best known of all Epiphany carols: *We three kings of Orient* are words and music by John Henry Hopkins (1820-91) pictured above.

If you would like a copy of the hymn meditation please telephone or email me and I will gladly drop a copy through your letter box. "O King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who was born at Bethlehem and revealed to the nations as God incarnate, grant us a portion of your heavenly wisdom, that we may always be guided on our journey by the light of your salvation, shining for all the world to see. Amen."

The new year wouldn't be the same without talking 'money'. 2020 presented financial challenges like never before at St Mary's and across the Team. We have now set up the necessary accounts to have what is called a QR code. This is displayed around Church and you can donate by scanning the code with your mobile, this will take you to a link and you can easily donate.

The next step is to set up contactless giving in Church which I am working on! Watch this space! If anyone has any weekly-giving envelopes which need to be collected, please contact John Ball or myself and we will come and collect them. Remember you can sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme at any time which has the advantage that Gift Aid is automatically paid to the PCC, or you can set up a standing order to save having to complete the envelopes!

For more details on giving please do not hesitate to contact either Jane,

John or me and we will assist in any way we can. St Mary's is dependent on the generosity of those who give their time, money and energy to make our work possible, to maintain our building and reach out to the wider community with the love of God. If you would like to give financially to support St Mary's, our work in the community or the maintenance of our buildings, then your kindness would be most gratefully received.



### A Message from the Treasurer

Dear members of Halesworth Church and supporters, as you will know, 2020 has been a difficult year for the church financially, and we are quite a long way off from paying our Parish Share, which we pay to the Diocese for clergy salaries, housing, pensions and outreach.

Therefore, I am appealing to you to ask if any of you could give anything towards our goal, please. I have until the middle of January to make payment, so if any of you are able, please send your donations to me, Margaret Bloomfield, Windrush, St Michaels Way, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9EH. Thank you very much.

**Margaret Bloomfield**

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

Results of 50/50 draw for December 2020 were as follows:- 1st M Fleming, 2nd P Simmons, 3rd B Attenborough.

## Holton

Temporary Correspondent

John Hewlett

johnfhewlett@btinternet.com

### Christmas Tree

A big thank you to Chris and Helen Knevett, who had the idea for the Christmas Tree outside St Peter's Church, earlier this year during Lockdown 1 (*remember?*); and then publicised it and got support for it; and thank you, too, to all those who have crocheted, knitted or sewn squares to make such a wonderful tree.

As you will have noticed, our amazing hand-crafted tree is featured on the cover of this month's *BVTimes*, why not pop along to St Peter's Holton and see it for yourself?



### Service of Readings and Carols

At the time of writing (15th December, to catch the deadline) our Service of Readings and Carols hasn't happened yet; but thank you to Chris Knevett, who organised some of the pre-recorded music and put up the Christmas Tree *inside* the church with some family help; to Florence Kernohan who played the other music; and to all those who organised the decorations. Thank you also to Dottie Booley who wrote (and recited) this poem especially for this year.

### Corona Carols

The Carol Service here each year brings joy to all who come,  
But this year it's quite different as we  
can't even hum!

The readings are familiar about the  
birth of an Infant King,  
How Angels and Shepherds, Wise men  
from the East all had a present to  
bring.

There's Lambs and a blanket, and  
maybe a lamp  
To light up that stable so bare.  
Those Shepherds came down from  
their flocks on the hills  
When the Angel appeared with a flare.

Were there horses and goats, a cow  
and some hens,  
Keeping watch on that baby from  
warm steamy pens?  
Did their presence make Mary feel her  
baby was safe  
When those visitors came and  
departed in haste?

The amazing gifts, Myrrh,  
Frankincense, Gold,  
Brought by the Kings, just a sight to  
behold;  
They had journeyed so far from their  
homes in the East,  
Stopping with Herod who gave them a  
feast.

A star showed the way to that stable  
that night,  
Which appeared in the night sky,  
shining so bright.  
When those visitors came they bent  
on their knee  
And worshipped the Christ child who  
set us all free.

For a start it's the morning so no  
candles a-flame  
To glow through the windows, now  
that is a shame.  
No Mince pies or Mulled wine to make  
us feel warm,  
But we have to stay safe, to protect us  
from harm.

We are here all together just doing  
our best  
To enjoy this Christmas, which may be  
a test.

Our Community's strength is the  
important thing;  
So we'll all stick together, even though  
we can't sing.

Dottie Booley

### Holton & Blyford Village Hall Tote - December Winners

1st prize: Norman Hatcher – who very kindly donated his prize back to the Hall; 2nd prize: Colin Hicks; 3rd prize: Dottie Booley; 4th prize: Sue Bacle.

### 2021

A very Happy and Safe New Year to all our readers!

Worship in January will begin on Sunday 17th January with an Iona service of Thanksgiving for the New Year, and continue with Eucharist on Sunday 24th, led by Malcolm Walkey: both services at 11.15am.

### Holton & Halesworth Children's Society Boxes

I have collected the majority of the boxes, which over recent weeks our treasurer Simon has emptied, counted the contents and banked. **The final total is £712.87**, which I think is tremendous. In a year when most of us have not been shopping with cash, thank you to everyone who topped up their boxes with notes and cheques. A very big thank you goes to Simon for his single-handed efforts.

Like all Charities the Children's Society has found itself short of money this year. Our donations have been paid by Giro into the Children's Society Account via Barclays Bank in Beccles. This means that the Society has already received our donations and has been able to put it towards their invaluable work with children and young people.

I send a big thank you to all the box holders. I hope to return the last of the boxes in the next few days, so you can start filling them up again. I hope we will be able to hold our usual Box Opening & Coffee Morning in 2021 but perhaps in September or early October, rather than July. I have spare new boxes if anyone else would like to have one.

Janet Walkey

Local Co-ordinator for The Children's  
Society for St Peter's Holton &  
St Mary's Halesworth. 01986 872594.  
janetwalkey@hotmail.com

## Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

AS I WRITE THIS, THE CHRISTMAS tree  
outside the church is being lit up but by

the time you read it, Christmas will be over again. It is, nevertheless a timely reminder that St Margaret's Linstead is, Covid apart, open for business. We are again grateful to Benny Fenton and his team for providing light in this darkest of winters.

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD WI ARE very properly playing for safety and have no immediate plans for a meeting. Members were very heart-warmed by the gift from the committee, of a Cyclamen to each member. They were reminded that the Cyclamen has many meanings including 'Friendship' and 'The ability to withstand hardship'. Both are highly appropriate.

ALTHOUGH WE NOW HAVE 'FIBRE TO the house', the landline to the telephone still owes most of its technology to Graham Alexander Bell. In practical terms this means that the forces of Mr BT Open Reach are frequently deployed on the (somewhat risky) crossroads outside our house. I think it was twice this week and, obviously with safety in mind, there are always at least two vans flashing (orange lights, that is) away on the corner. We have for several years had an interesting fault which leads our 'phone to suddenly think it is a fax machine, if you remember those. I have yet to bother to report the fault on the dubious basis that BT is out there so often that either:

- They will repair the fault *en passant* whilst sorting out all the others or
- The fault is irreparable, in which case, why bother?

THERE ARE NO SERVICES PLANNED for January. However, I am hoping that we will all soon be given the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and become human darts boards and that February will mark the start of the return to something vaguely approaching normality.

IN THE MEANTIME, MAY I TAKE THIS opportunity to wish our readers a very happy and, above all, healthy 2021.

#### ROTAS FOR JANUARY

NO SERVICES AT LINSTAD.

## Spexhall

Correspondent Janet Sochon

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

As years pass and memories begin to fade, I expect that the pandemic of

2020 will remain clearly imprinted in our minds, not least for its preventing us from worshipping together. Nevertheless services have continued in one form or another in the beneficence thanks to the sterling efforts of Jane and the ministry team and the technical opportunities we have been offered.

Since lockdown began, services at Spexhall have been limited to the one on Remembrance Sunday, but they will resume with a carol service round the Christmas tree in the churchyard at 6pm on Wednesday 23rd December. It would be wonderful to have a good gathering (suitably spaced) to celebrate the Saviour's birth in song. Please don't forget to bring a facemask. Midnight communion will be at Wissett at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

May I wish all our readers a happy, peaceful, and blessed Christmas with all good wishes for 2021 in the hope that it will be remembered for happier times.

## Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower

01502 478267

Thorington PCC sends best wishes for the New Year, and again thanks all those who support our local church. With such a small community here, it is a struggle to keep the church open but in 2021 we hope to hold events to gather folk together there... let's see what the next few months bring and keep optimistic. Again thanks to all our helpers and worshippers locally. **Trish and the PCC**

## Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

[margaret@wrush.plus.com](mailto:margaret@wrush.plus.com)

Happy New Year to you all. I hope it will be a different one from the last. We have all been tried and tested by going through lockdowns, tiers, illness and bereavement but we have survived and look forward to a brighter future now that the vaccination has been approved. I hope and pray that the world will be a

better place now and that we all learn to count our blessings.

In January the services for Wenhaston are as follows:-

3rd January: Team Service at Halesworth 10am. No service at Wenhaston.

10th January: Bramfield 11.15am or Methodist Covenant 10.30am.

17th January: Eucharist 11.15am Wenhaston.

24th January: Pause for Thought 11.15am Wenhaston.

31st January Team Service Halesworth 10am. No service at Wenhaston.

Margaret Bloomfield

### Footpath Walking

Only one walk in January which will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 5th January.

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

## Wissett

Correspondent

Nick Evans 01986 872372

[nickandmaggie@btinternet.com](mailto:nickandmaggie@btinternet.com)

This time it has to be said that even in busy Wissett news is scarce – or even non-existent. Not any reported wonders of nature either, except the developing conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, which it would be grandiose to claim as our own. Of course in each house a lot must be happening, did we but know it; communally it is more a time of preparation for the special services with plenty of candles, which are, if I may remind you, **Christmas Service of music and readings on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm, (I put the wrong date last time) Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve,** and the **Epiphany Service of Light at 6.30pm on Wednesday 6th January 2021.** We cannot sing the familiar carols, but thanks to Jason, we will be able to enjoy hearing the organ again. **It is necessary to book for all of these please, through Maggie and me.**

If we are still at liberty after all the festive hazards we will have a **Eucharist at 10am on both 10th and 24th January and, AT THIS VERY MOMENT UNDER DEBATE, we might mark Plough Sunday here on the 10th, if Spexhall is unable to hold its traditional and much appreciated service.**

## ONLINE DONATION SERVICE

Churches in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry & Cluster are creating on-line donation pages in order to help raise some much-needed funds.

Several of our churches have joined the "Give a Little" online donation service, details of the links required to make a donation to your particular church are listed below:

	<b>St Andrew's Church</b> <b>Bramfield</b> <a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/c3cd24b5-118f-46da-8612-e9a4079e16a3">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/c3cd24b5-118f-46da-8612-e9a4079e16a3</a>	
	<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels</b> <b>Cookley</b> <a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/17111223-35da-4b01-90f4-bc8bc9c16dbb">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/17111223-35da-4b01-90f4-bc8bc9c16dbb</a>	
	<b>St Mary's Church</b> <b>Halesworth</b> <a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a0b8d74b-52a5-4c09-a4b4-0f3776c058eb">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a0b8d74b-52a5-4c09-a4b4-0f3776c058eb</a>	
	<b>St Peter's Church</b> <b>Wenhaston</b> <a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b4ca0cea-e17d-4c02-a4e4-dcec179eaa65">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b4ca0cea-e17d-4c02-a4e4-dcec179eaa65</a>	
	<b>Blyth Valley Team Ministry</b> <b>Your donation goes towards the work of the BVTM across the Team</b> <a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9411ba23-4707-424c-8970-519dee43688d">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9411ba23-4707-424c-8970-519dee43688d</a>	

**ANOTHER WAY OF DONATING TO YOUR CHURCH IS BY SCANNING THE QR CODES DISPLAYED ON POSTERS IN YOUR CHURCH. TO MAKE A DONATION, SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE USING YOUR MOBILE DEVICE. ST MARY'S HALESWORTH HAS SET UP THIS FACILITY, SEE POSTER BELOW:**

# Giving

Support the work of St. Mary's Church  
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St. Mary's is dependent on the generosity of those who give their time, money and energy to make our work possible, to maintain our building and reach out to the wider community with the love of God. If you would like to give financially to support St. Mary's, our work in the community or the maintenance of our buildings, then your kindness would be most gratefully received.

# Town of the Year!



We DID IT!!!

Halesworth is the STAR Town of the year at the EDP Norfolk and Suffolk Awards.

Apparently we were streets ahead of others in the nomination citations and the award was in recognition of the way the Town Council, Voluntary Sector, Business and Retail Sector and the Churches have pulled together with the community at large across the whole town to support each other during the pandemic.

# Halesworth Family

## Angel Trail

On December 22nd, there will be angels hiding around Halesworth town centre for your family to find.

You will need to book a time slot to come to the United Reformed Church to receive your instructions, and return to the church at the end for a small prize.

Time slots will start at 10am.

Please private message me if you would like a time slot, or you have any questions and please invite other families who will need something to do with very excited children, three sleeps before Christmas!

Email me : [jomohurc@gmail.com](mailto:jomohurc@gmail.com)

or find me on messenger/facebook : Jo Hurc



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# Worship and prayer

## in the Blyth Valley Cluster of Churches

**Worship:** Missing church? So are we, but we still worship every day.

You can join us on Facebook at “Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk” for:

**Daily morning prayer (currently not on Wednesdays):** 9am (9.30am Sat); **Daily evening prayer:** 9.30pm;

**Eucharist:** at 10am every Sunday.

You can join in with us and talk to each other on ZOOM every week by emailing Revd Jane for an invitation for: **Wednesday Café Church** at 10am (Eucharist one week, morning worship the next).

See [www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk) for the Orders of Service,

or if you want printed copies, please contact Jane and she will post them to you.

**OR you can tune into the Church of England Services on the radio or television – see your TV guide.**

**Prayer:** Every day we pray for: All those on our Team prayer list, the world, the church, and those who are in distress, trouble, sickness, or who have died.

We also pray daily:

<b>Monday</b>	The NHS, associated professionals, and all the staff involved	Social Care, residential and home care, carers	All those involved in funeral services
<b>Tuesday</b>	Local businesses, our shops, supermarkets, pharmacies and for our economy	People working in utilities, connectivity services and bin collection, road maintenance etc	Armed forces, police, fire service and first responders, prison services and social workers
<b>Wednesday</b>	Our teachers, in schools, universities, and for those in research and for those providing ways to educate, engage and entertain children	Our children and young people whose lives have changed and whose futures look different	All families, apart or together, for all those laid off, made redundant, furloughed or otherwise not able to work
<b>Thursday</b>	Food producers, farmers, food chain workers, delivery drivers,	Staff in supermarkets, shops and those who in creative ways keep us fed, including pubs and restaurants	The foodbank, and the fresh food voucher scheme
<b>Friday</b>	Volunteer organisations and community groups	Our local groups, and organisations managing our responses to caring for and supporting our communities to keep us safe	Our neighbours and friends
<b>Saturday</b>	County, District, Town and Parish Councils, and the County Resilience Group	All local government and public sector staff	Our Town and our villages
<b>Sunday</b>	Ourselves and our families	Our Ministry Team, Elders, Churchwardens and parishes	Our Diocese, our Bishops, Archdeacons and Rural Dean



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# Halesworth & District Museum

## From the Archives

13.55 hours 18 January 1941

### Halesworth Railway Station Bombing

It is 80 years since Halesworth experienced its first and only fatal bombing raid of WW2. Herbert William Holland aged 55, Station Master, his wife Hannah Holland aged 59, and Joan Elizabeth Clarke aged 19, their servant, were killed. Some two-thirds of the station building was demolished.

The East Suffolk Police *Daily Situation Report* records as follows:

Halesworth Railway Station, L.&N.E.R. London to Yarmouth Line.

2 bombs.

Siding of old Southwold Railway. 6 bombs.

3 killed. 4 injured (slight).

Station house demolished. Railway Booking Office, adjoining, partly demolished. Slight damage to "Up" platform and to United Dairies Buildings, Station Hotel, and Patrick Stead Hospital.

The signal box was put out of action owing to the telephone wires being broken, and the electricity supply was also cut off, being restored at 16.50 hours. The permanent way was blocked by falling debris, but was cleared by 15.15 hours, traffic then proceeding. Air Raid Warning "Red" was received at Halesworth at 14.03 hours, but the 'Alert' could not be sounded owing to the current having been cut off. The Air Raid Message "White" was received at 16.51 hours, when the 'Raiders Passed' was sounded.

Miriam, daughter of Herbert & Hannah Holland, recalled the incident some years later:

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 1941, my shift as a local telephone operator ended at 2.00pm. At 1.55pm we had heard an explosion and the telephone exchange indicator board began to flash the telephone numbers which were out of use. I recognised the Station House number among them. However, I was completely unprepared for the scene of disaster and rubble which met me as I turned into Station Yard to go home for my dinner.....

Four days later Halesworth stood still. Silent crowds lined

the streets as three Union Jack draped coffins were carried from the church to the cemetery on a railway lorry – the Station's final tribute to three of its own.

Station House was never rebuilt.

And John Stebbings, during the Museum Oral History Project in 2015, said:

That must have been a Saturday morning. Anyhow, I was up London Road talking to one of the Berkshire Regiment boys, 'cause the Berkshire Regiment had commandeered the Rifle Hall. Across the road was what we used to call the Lamb Sale Meadow. Across the road, in that gateway was one of the Berkshire Regiment. He had a tripod with a Bren on. What happened was, I stood there talking to him and all of a sudden this plane, a Dornier, came in. They opened up. He let go a whole canister. That went. But what that done, they must have thought "There's something going on there" 'cause that turned round and come back and I stood there and they fired at it again and all of a sudden a couple of bombs came down. I could see them fall and I thought "Well, I know we're safe, 'cause I can see them bombs going down". And do you know, he dropped them spot on, but that hit the station master's house. Another one landed near the signal box. Then one or two landed in the goods yard. There were all goods lines behind there.

Everybody rushed up there. Father rushed up there. Of course the station master's house was just flat. The blokes helped try and dig them out. They dug Mr Holland out and his wife and they dug Joan Clarke out. Now Joan Clarke was a smashing little girl. She was a mate of my sister Margaret's. They were at school together... A ginger-haired girl, beautiful girl. They got her out.

The main room at the Museum is dedicated to their memory being called the Holland-Clarke Room. A small brass plaque in the foyer commemorates the deaths, along with others who have lost their life on the railway locally.

Jenny Janes



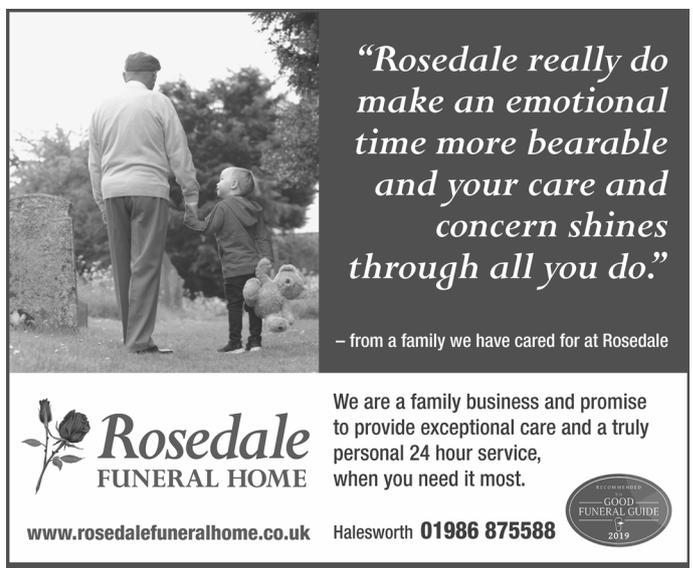
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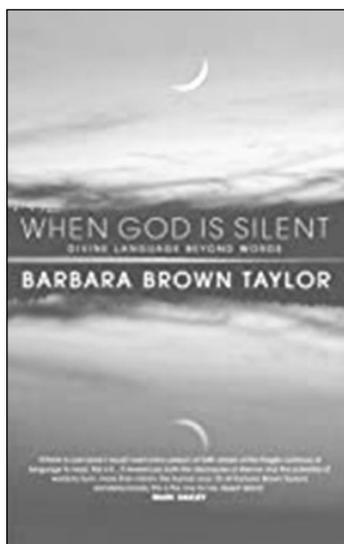
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### Something to help you with a Happy New Year?

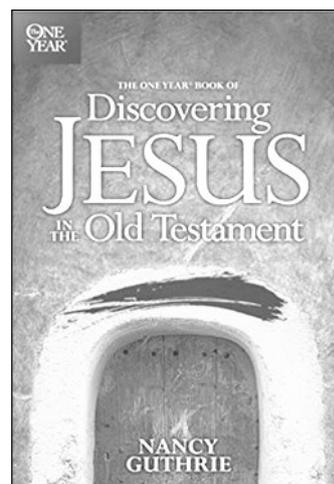
“Happy New Year everyone!” I wonder how many items in this edition of the magazine start with that customary greeting as the year turns again. Somehow it seems a little inappropriate or unlikely at the moment: Covid-19 is still with us and now we are falling into the ‘omni-shambles’ of Brexit too. So I pray the blessings of peace and happiness during these troubled times for you, our God still reigns however silent he may appear to be.... which leads me neatly to:



#### **When God is silent: divine language beyond words, by Barbara Brown Taylor**

In chapter two the author remarks ‘there are fewer and fewer oases of silence in our noisy world. Communication has higher value for us than contemplation... True silence is difficult to achieve, even at night when most of the world is asleep’ Perhaps that is why the wilderness experience is sometimes beneficial and sought after (as we discovered at an Advent Café Church), from old testament prophets, through John the Baptist, Jesus, the early church desert fathers, to Lawrence of Arabia! Many have valued it: a time apart from the noise and distractions of the world to seek and think, listen and learn. In today’s culture, torrents of

words come at us from all directions, threatening to drown out the messages we really need to hear which only silence discloses. Does God seem to be silent because we are scared of hearing a loud clear voice and the responsibility of responding to it? God respects that – Exodus 21 v19 shows how that happened (this was new to me) There are many well discussed ideas and clear teaching in this little book, and it’s easy reading too.



It wouldn’t be New Year without someone mentioning New Year resolutions, so if for you that happens to be reading or studying more of the Bible, or you are interested in exploring a theme in greater depth, the one year **Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament, by Nancy Guthrie** might suit you well. The entire Old Testament tells a story that only finds completion in Jesus, a theme some of us also explored during advent, a theme Jesus himself expounded to two disciples on the road to Emmaus - Luke 24 v27. Every book of the OT is visited in order over 365 days: reading the whole Bible in a year is a tad too ambitious for most of us, but the Old Testament may be manageable! Enjoy.

*Val Jennings*  
For Sign of the Fish  
January 2021

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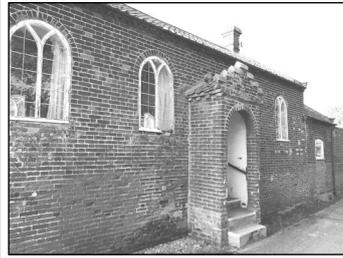
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from all in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry

Blyford All Saints; Bramfield St Andrew; Chediston St Mary;  
Halesworth St Mary; Holton St Peter; Linstead St Margaret;  
Spexhall St Peter; Thorington St Peter; Walpole St Mary;  
Wenhaston St Peter; Wissett St Andrew.

*In alliance with:* Heveningham with Ubbeston St Margaret,  
Huntingfield St Mary; Cookley St Michael and All Angels

David Jane Linda Vic  
Diana Win Alison Malcolm

## Christmas Services in the Blyth Valley Team and Cluster

<b>18th December:</b>	Wenhaston	19.00	Celebrating Christmas - booking Alison (01502 478855)
<b>20th December:</b>	Cookley	09.30	Eucharist - booking Jane Evers (01986 785209)
<b>20th December:</b>	Chediston	09.30	Eucharist - booking Graeme (01986 875342)
<b>20th December:</b>	Halesworth	10.00	BCP Eucharist - booking Jane Held (07771 556391)
<b>20th December:</b>	Wenhaston	11.15	Eucharist - booking Alison (01502 478855)
<b>20th December:</b>	Holton	11.15	Christmas Service - booking Chris (01986 872467)
<b>20th December:</b>	Wissett	18.30	Christmas Service (1) - booking Nick (01986 872372)
<b>20th December:</b>	Linstead	15.00	Christmas Service - booking Malcolm (01986 785289)
<b>21st December:</b>	Wissett	18.30	Christmas Service (2) - booking Nick (01986 872372)
<b>22nd December:</b>	Halesworth	14.00	Christmas Family Service - booking Jane Held (07771 556391)
<b>23rd December:</b>	Spexhall	18.00	Christmas Tree Service - booking Jane Held (07771 556391)
<b>23rd December:</b>	Huntingfield	18.30	Christmas Service - booking Sally (01986 785348)
<b>24th December:</b>	Wenhaston	20.00	Midnight in Bethlehem - booking Alison (01502 478855)
<b>24th December:</b>	Bramfield	15.00	Christmas Service - booking Robert (01502 478682)
<b>24th December:</b>	Chediston	18.00	Christmas Tree Service - booking Graeme (01986 875342)
<b>24th December:</b>	Wissett	23.30	Midnight Eucharist - booking Nick (01986 872372)
<b>24th December:</b>	Heveningham	23.30	Midnight Eucharist - booking Janet (01986 798533)
<b>25th December:</b>	Halesworth	10.00	Christmas Family Service - booking Jane Held (07771 556391)
<b>25th December:</b>	Cookley	10.00	Christmas Service - booking Jane Evers (01986 785209)
<b>2021</b>			
<b>6th January:</b>	Wissett	18.30	Epiphany Service - booking Nick (01986 872372)



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