

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

January 2024

Volume 45

Issue 1

£1

(where sold)



Toy & Clothing Exchange

Following our successful Climate Action Conference in the autumn, Blyth Valley Churches ran a new event in the run-up to Christmas 2023: a Toy and Clothing Exchange in St Mary's Halesworth, to coincide with the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

Local people were generous in their donations of pre-loved toys and clothes; many of these donations found new homes in the run up to Christmas. The local Town Council helped to publicise and support the event.

We also invited along representatives from the local council and other organisations that advise on keeping warm and saving energy. A noticeboard with energy-saving tips and contact details is now on display in the café area of St Mary's.

One mum commented on social media: "Amazing! We really enjoyed visiting the church for the toy exchange today. Everyone was so welcoming."

Revd Alison Alder



Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by Blyth Valley Churches.

To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - minimum donation £12 a year;
or to request a postal subscription (£30 a year),

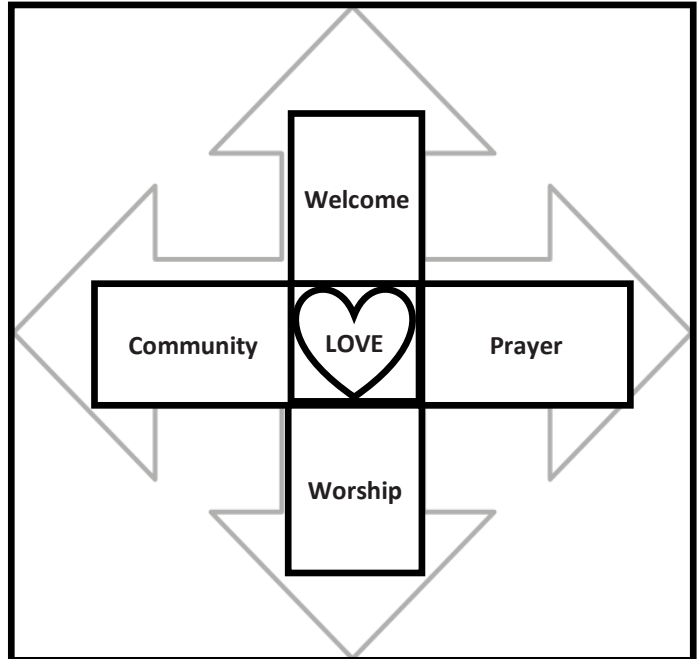
please telephone 01986 875941 or 07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

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

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

BVTimes Contents

Page 3	Worship in the Blyth Valley in January
Page 4	Service details
Page 5	From the Rector
Page 6	News from our Sister Churches
Page 7	What has your Team Vicar been up to?
Page 8	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Page 9	Can't get to Church anymore?
Page 10	Halesworth Town Carol Service
Page 11	Halesworth <i>dementia</i> Carers' Fund
Page 12	Mothers' Union
Page 13	Halesworth Cancer Research
Page 14	Sign of the Fish
Pages 16 - 17	BVTM Contacts
Page 17	From the Ringing Chamber
Pages 18 - 24	News from Town & Villages
Page 25	St Mary's - A Little Bit of History
Page 27	Alde Valley Suffolk Family History
Pages 28 - 29	What's On in the Area
Page 32	St Andrew's Wissett Epiphany Service



**For details of how to advertise in
Blyth Valley Times
please email:
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com
or telephone 01986 875941**

**January 2024 Lectionary****Sunday 7th**

**Traditional Communion – First After The Epiphany
(Green)**

Romans 12: 1 – 5 (KJV)

Luke 2: 41 – end (KJV)

Holy Communion – Baptism of Christ (White)

Acts 19: 1 – 7 (NRSV)

Mark 1: 4 – 11 (NRSV)

Sunday 14th

**Traditional Communion – Second After Epiphany
(Green)**

Romans 12: 6 – 16 (KJV)

John 2: 1 – 11 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Second of Epiphany (White)

Revelation 5: 1 – 10 (NRSV)

John 1: 43 – end (NRSV)

Sunday 21st

**Traditional Communion – Third After Epiphany
(Green)**

Romans 12: 16 – end (KJV)

Matthew 8: 1 – 13 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Third of Epiphany (White)

Revelation 19: 6 – 10 (NRSV)

John 2: 1 – 11 (NRSV)

Sunday 28th

Traditional Communion – Septuagesima (Green)

1 Corinthians 9: 24 – end (KJV)

Matthew 20: 1 – 16 (KJV)

**Holy Communion – The Presentation/Candlemas
(White)**

Revelation 12: 1 – 5 (NRSV)

Mark 1: 21 – 28 (NRSV)

Worship in the Blyth Valley in January 2024				
CW – Year B Continuous	7th CW – Baptism of Christ (White) BCP – First After Epiphany (Green)	14th CW – Second of (White) BCP- Second After Epiphany (Green)	21st CW – Third of (White) BCP – Third After Epiphany (Green)	28th CW – Candlemas (White) BCP – Septuagesima (Green)
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am TEAM Holy Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion Alison 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Linda 6pm Evensong Dominic
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Dominic	10am Iona Worship Alison C	10am Holy Communion Vic
Wenhaston St Peter		10am Ecumenical Communion Vic		10am Pause for Thought Alison C
Bramfield St Andrew			10am Holy Communion Gini	
Blyford All Saints				
Thorington St Peter				
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Breakfast Church Geoffrey K	10am Holy Communion Vic	10am Morning Prayer David
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Linda		10am Morning Prayer Veronica
Spexhall St Peter	3pm TEAM Plough Sunday Dominic		10am Holy Communion Linda	
Linstead St Margaret				10am Holy Communion Alison
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Holy Communion David		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Family Service at The Hub Dominic
Walpole St Mary				10am Morning Prayer

Additional Service: Saturday 6th January TEAM Epiphany Service of Light, 6pm, St Andrew Wissett – Dominic

*Other Regular Services: 8am and 6pm Tuesday to Saturday: Daily Prayer, St Mary's Halesworth;
10am Tuesdays: Café Church by Zoom; 10am Wednesdays: Holy Communion, St Mary's Halesworth;
9.30am Thursdays: Morning Worship, St Andrew's Bramfield.*

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

JANUARY 2024

7th Revd Iain Mckillop HC

14th United Service at St Peter's
Wenhaston (10am)

21st Deacon Linda Kinchenton

28th Revd Robert Soanes

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,

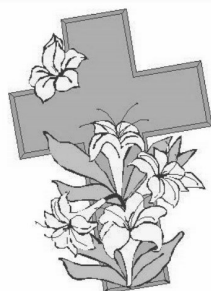
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

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).

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

SERVICES for DECEMBER'23/JANUARY'24

Sun 31st Dec	11am Gathered Worship
Tues 2nd Jan	10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Fri 5th Jan	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sun 7th Jan	11am Gathered Worship 3pm Worship at Bramfield Chapel
Tues 9th Jan	10am to 12noon Coffee Morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Fri 12th Jan	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sun 14th Jan	11am Gathered Worship
Tues 16th Jan	10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Fri 19th Jan	9.30am Prayer Meeting (Ecumenical - as part of Week of Prayer) in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sun 21st Jan	11am Gathered Worship
Tues 23rd Jan	10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Fri 26th Jan	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
Sun 28th Jan	11am Gathered Worship
Tues 30th Jan	10am to 12noon Coffee Morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
Jon Sermon: 01986 873761 pastorjonsermon@gmail.com	
Judy Morton: 01502 724572 judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk	
Elizabeth Aslett 07710 916737 (for families and children) familyhurc@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...

Welcome to 2024! Happy new year! We're now in the month of Janus that famous God who - like teachers - has eyes in the back of the head! Or, less positively might be described as being two faced (quite unlike teachers)! On the cusp of the turning of the calendar year we too may do well to look both backwards and forwards.

The past has made us who we are because of our genes and our upbringing. We are who we are because of our relationships since school days and our training, work experience, our hobbies and interests. Where did they come from? Nature or nurture, that age old puzzle? Did our dad play the clarinet? Were we thrown in at the deep end? Was the good looking person on the school bus in the local choir? Did our Grandad tell us not to dwell on poems and rubbish? Our heritage has its ups and downs for all of us doesn't it?

What of our future (as individuals) though? For most of us there will, no doubt, be some things that we are looking forward to this year. You may be fortunate enough to have been able to afford the time or money to have booked a holiday. You may be waiting for a hospital appointment. You may be gearing up your preparations for marriage, a viva, or retirement. Despite being planned, these may or may not happen. 'The best laid plans of mice and men' and all that! Even if they do, they may not turn out the way we expected. Yet in addition, there are those things that will be complete surprises! You may get a promotion. You may have an accident. You may get flowers in your seeded lawn.

What of our (collective) future though? My what a question! Despite everything, perhaps the most pressing dilemma is the climate. How long will we be around to leave our cars running to warm them up before heading out to work or the book club? Then there are the wars and rumours of wars. The Christian colonialist west and the BRIC nations of Brazil, Russia, India and China will no doubt continue to maintain instability to promote self interest at the cost of the 'terrorist' and 'stupid animals' who 'don't deserve to live'. Closer to home, will our votes call for a fairer future for the ordinary person on the street when the election comes round or will they further feather the nests of those who can already well afford it and take other's tents away.

Whether you are anxious or hopeful, addicted or volunteering, abused or protesting, here are three tricks that may help you see the new year through. The first is accept we are not alone. 'I am with you always' (Matthew 28). Extra terrestrials, higher powers, fairies in the sky; in short the inexplicable; can give a person wiggle room for a second opinion. It may help to know that what you see is not, necessarily, what you will get. This may grant you enough energy to get on your knees to pray, to smile at the stars, or to face another day. The second is 'do not worry about tomorrow... each day has enough trouble of its own' (Matthew 6). You would not be able to face a full whole long year in chronic pain. Or go a whole long month without

another shot. Or get everything you need to sorted before the wedding – it's only six months away! It you can get a rhythm and routine going to get you through the next six to twelve hours of daylight, be content with that. Lather, rinse, repeat. The third is: 'do not neglect meeting together' (Hebrews 10). There are some great organisations in the town and around full of folk who will listen and give you space, tea and help. Dementia Carers. The Pear Tree. Your Church. The Men's Shed. The Library. Halesworth Volunteer Centre. Don't be a stranger, pick up the phone, drop us a line.

One of the many ways you might bring these tricks together is to give church a try. We face God. We offer structured regular spiritual encounters. We gather together. Go on, turn to page three to see the usual Sunday services across the Anglican churches of the Blyth Valley. Those taking place at St Mary, Halesworth, (and our 10am on Wednesdays) may be viewed live, or later on the YouTube Channel @halesworthparish

If you'd like to join our informal weekly Café Church linking people from their homes or hospital beds e-mail: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk or revd.linda@huntingfield.uk for Zoom details. Of course, from Tuesday to Saturday, you are welcome to join me at St Mary, Halesworth, for Morning and Evening Prayer 8am or 6pm. You may join remotely as follows: Morning Prayer Interactive Zoom Meeting ID – 883 5778 9092, Passcode – 607673. Evening Prayer Zoom Meeting ID – 850 0997 6304, Passcode – 825686. Watch Blyth Valley Churches Facebook. Listen later: Dominic Doble YouTube Channel.

Looking back that's that. Now we look forward to helping each other out as we face the year ahead. We encourage you to join the sacred rhythm of our collective worship pattern. All the more so if this is a sign for you to begin to believe in yourself and you feel that might be the way to do it.

Happy 2024!

Dominic

VICTOR'S BARBER SHOP

48b Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8AR
Telephone: 01986 899846

Layla and Victor are waiting for you.

 Find us on Facebook: Victor's Barber Shop

A PET'S BEST FRIEND

Animal sitting

Occasional and casual dog walking



Sarah Grimwood

9 Bigod Close, Halesworth, IP19 8SR

Tel: 01986 873592

Mob: 07895 025174

Email: frary8sr@btinternet.com

Insured & DBS checked


PIF
PET INDUSTRY FEDERATION

HALESWORTH TOY SHOP

The Thoroughfare
Halesworth
Suffolk
IP19 8AH
Tel: 01986 874270. Email: halesworthtoys@aol.com



The Rumburgh Buck



REAL ALES, REAL FOOD, REAL PUB

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

FOOD SERVED DAILY 12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 8pm

**Mill Road, Rumburgh,
Halesworth IP19 0NT**

Tel: 01986 785257

www.rumburghbuck.co.uk



HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends, Happy New Year!

As 2024 starts, and we have recent and special memories of celebrating again the coming of our Saviour, perhaps now is a good time to reflect on Jesus 'beyond the manger'? Whether in our home/family ways of marking Christmas, the carol services or other Christmas events, we have, inevitably, concentrated on the coming of Jesus. Now let's not leave Him as a cute scene in a (rather sanitised?) first Century stable.

To describe the birth of Jesus Christ as the turning point of human history is probably realistic. However, that does depend on taking in all that it means. His birth, of course, led on to his life: A life like no other! A life lived in harmony with God's ways – perfectly, without sin.

That life also resulted in challenge to vested interests. And those who felt threatened turned against him: a trumped-up trial and a most appalling criminal's death followed. Why, because as John puts it in the opening of his Gospel: "in him was life – a light to people. The light shines in the dark ness but the darkness has not understood it." (John 1: 4-5) and "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God". (John 1: 11-12)

The reality, that we are created for relationship with God – and that our rebellion (sin amounts to thinking and behaving as though we know better than God) messes this up - is stark! But just as the way good news/bad news jokes works, if this were not so the need of salvation would not be so clear!

Without Jesus, humanity – both individually and collectively – was on a path to destruction. His coming - His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension – provide the rescue mission of God for humanity. As singer/song-writer Garth Hewitt, who is also an Anglican priest, put it in one of his songs: he addresses Jesus as the 'wooden cross rider' thus:

"Wooden Cross Rider you're bearing the pain,

Of a run-away world that won't turn again.

There's blood on your saddle and tears on your face

And your arms are stretched wide for the whole human race."

Our part, over and above welcoming the child in a manger, is accepting the free gift of life – the right to become children of God – given by a self-sacrificing Saviour.

Blessings

Jon



The
United
Reformed
Church

**Revd Jon Sermon,
Minister of Halesworth & Bramfield URC
and North Lowestoft URC**

*"Rosedale really do
make an emotional
time more bearable
and your care and
concern shines
through all you do."*

– from a family we have cared for at Rosedale



Rosedale
FUNERAL HOME

We are a family business and promise to provide exceptional care and a truly personal 24 hour service, when you need it most.

www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk

Halesworth **01986 875588**



SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.

8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.

6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

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



What has your Team Vicar been up to?

Happy New Year everyone!
 I hope you all had a bit of fun, some good company and some rest over the Christmas period. It has been lovely, challenging and exhausting in equal measure for me.
 The highlights in December had to include Holton Primary School coming into St Peter's Church to rehearse and

perform their Christmas show. The youngest children dressed up and created the nativity scene and the older children told the story and sang beautifully to a church full of family members. Hats off to everyone at Holton Primary School - I was smiling for a week and it took a while before I stopped waking up singing the songs.

There were, of course, Carol Services and I was in Heveningham and Blyford, as well as the All Access Carol Service in Halesworth which was a such a treat, especially as it was followed by a lovely afternoon tea provided by Halesworth Volunteers.

Christmas Eve was a busy one with a Crib Service in Holton, a family party at our place, then to Heveningham for Midnight Mass.

Our Community Lunch on the last Wednesday of the month coincided (more or less!) with St Stephen's Day and 40 of us feasted in St Mary's, thanks to generous donations from the Co-op Funeralcare, Allen's Butcher and local residents. Also thanks to the volunteers who helped with cooking and serving the meal.

Remembering the Christmas story this year has made me think about what it tells us about God, that he chose to come near to his people in such a poor and vulnerable state in a time of occupation and oppression.

It has been reassuring to know that God does want to be near us in our darkest times and we can gain hope from that despite the challenges we face, whether they are personal, local or global.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world and darkness cannot overcome it. Every time we show kindness to anyone, we ourselves are shining that light. I wonder what a difference we would make if we all chose to shine a little bit brighter in 2024!

With love and blessings.

Revd Gini

DEATH NOTICE

DEREK NEWBY Sadly passed away at home, aged 99, on December 25th, 2023. Much loved and greatly missed by his family and all his many friends. A private family cremation will be held, followed by a thanksgiving service at a date to be arranged.

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN DECEMBER

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Malcolm Harold Rackham at Huntingfield

David William Goodwin at Halesworth

Robert Bourke at Bramfield



HMS Footcare

Foot Health Practitioner
 and Registered Nurse Associate
*Treatments offered in the comfort
 of your own home:*

- Toenail cutting/trimming • Ingrown toenails
 - Verrucas • Corns • Callus
 - Pressure relieving dressings
- Fungal nails • Athlete's foot
 - General foot health



Hollie Sewell
 07880005783

Email: Hollsewell@gmail.com

Heath's Room

Telephone 07725 277335

Email: heathcaplin@gmail.com

FULL OR PARTIAL HOUSE CLEARANCES



We are interested in buying your watches (in working order or not), gold, silver, platinum, medals, militaria, glass, furniture, vintage toys, lamps, china, bric-à-brac etc.

Any condition considered

**An independent, small company,
 based in**

Halesworth, Reydon and Southwold

Any distance travelled

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

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

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

In choosing this passage of Scripture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.

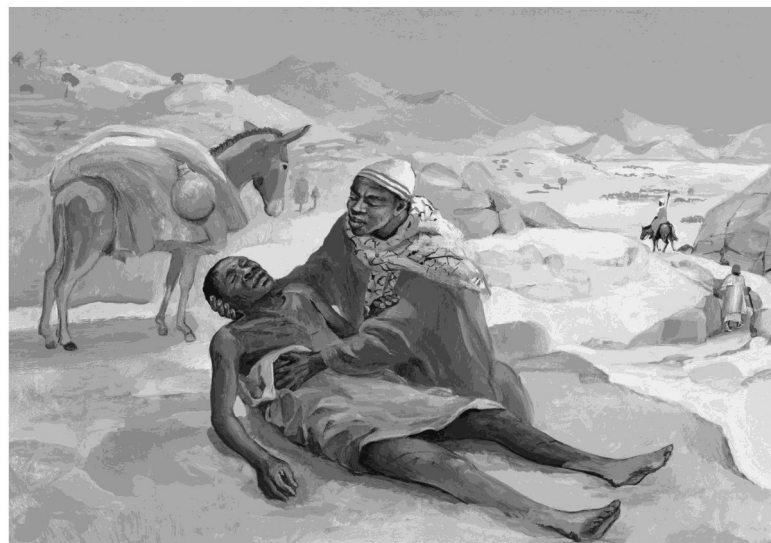
The resources are available here:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

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.

Go and do likewise



All gatherings are in Halesworth at 12.30pm:

- Thurs 18th Jan** outside the Police Station
- Fri 19th Jan** outside Town Offices
- Sat 20th Jan** in the Thoroughfare
- Sun 21st Jan** at the Skate park.
- Mon 22nd Jan** outside Edgar Sewter
- Tues 23rd Jan** at the Pear Tree Centre near Doctors' surgery
- Wed 24th Jan** outside the Museum by the Railway station
- Thurs 25th Jan** at the Arboretum

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

Can't get to church anymore?

We can help you stay connected....



For health or mobility reasons, some people struggle to get to church. During winter months some people find they can't cope with the cold in some of our churches. Other people can't get to church because they are working or caring for a family member. Blyth Valley Churches offer several ways you can continue to worship with us.

Online Worship

Our Sunday morning services and our Wednesday midweek Holy Communion services can be watched online via

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

There are regular services most days of the week:

Monday and Sunday evenings

9.30pm Night prayer / Compline on the Blyth Valley Churches Facebook page.

Search:- blythvalleychurchessuffolk

Tuesday – Saturday

Morning and Evening Prayer from St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via Zoom:

8am Morning Prayer: *Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092. Passcode – 607673*

6pm Evening Prayer: *Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304. Passcode – 825686*

Café Church via Zoom

Enjoy friendship and support with our regular online congregation every Tuesday at 10am. The service is simple and reflective. Contact the Revd Alison to be added to our contact list: alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk

Holy Communion at home and home visits

A member of our ministry team or Pastoral Ministry group can bring Holy Communion, or visit someone on a regular basis, for a chat or prayers. Please contact the Revd Alison for more details: 01502 478855 / 07584 416277.



The Green House

Plants, Crafts and Workshops

Ancient House
6 Thoroughfare
Halesworth IP19 8AH
01986 513177
hello@thegreenhousesuffolk.co.uk



The Accordion Man
Robert Cator

*Traditional Singalongs,
Scottish & Irish Tunes, Cabaret,
Parties, Care homes,
to Theatres*

01986 895464
07884 167867
theaccordionman@outlook.com



SWAN
HOUSE & GARDEN
Antiques and 21st century
decorations and ancient artefacts
for the caravan or palace

HOUSE CLEARANCES
Always interested in buying antiques, rugs, textiles,
paintings etc.
Buying, appraisals and house calls gladly undertaken.
Interior design consultation

Danielle Swanson
Tel: 07960 038280
Email: danielleswan@mac.com
www.swanhouseandgarden.co.uk



HALESWORTH STATIONERS

CLOSING DOWN

It is with much regret that Halesworth Stationers will be closing down on **Friday 12th January 2024**. For customers who have loyalty cards, please use your points before the end of December 2023. Thank you all so much for your custom and we hope to get the opportunity to see you before then.

OPEN 10 - 4 MONDAY – SATURDAY (CLOSED THURSDAY)
57 THOROUGHFARE, HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK IP19 8AR
TEL: 01986 873742.

SALES@HALESWORTHSTATIONERS.CO.UK

HALESWORTH TOWN CAROL SERVICE 2023

Post-Covid attendance for the annual Halesworth Town Carol Service had previously been reduced... not this year! With a last minute scramble to put additional chairs out, and folks standing around the font.

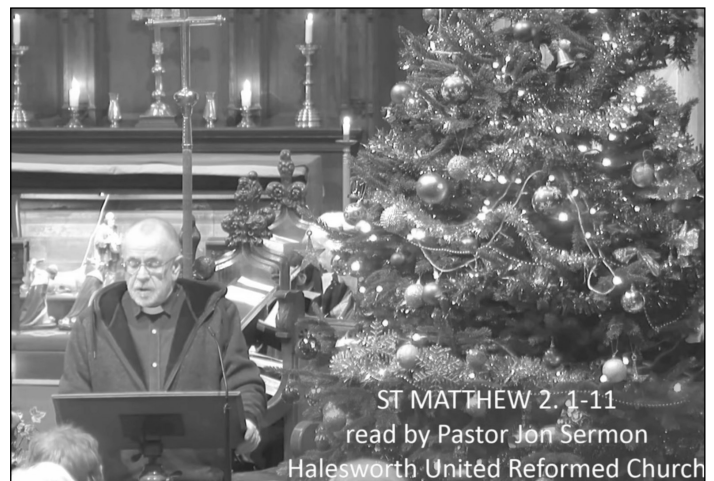
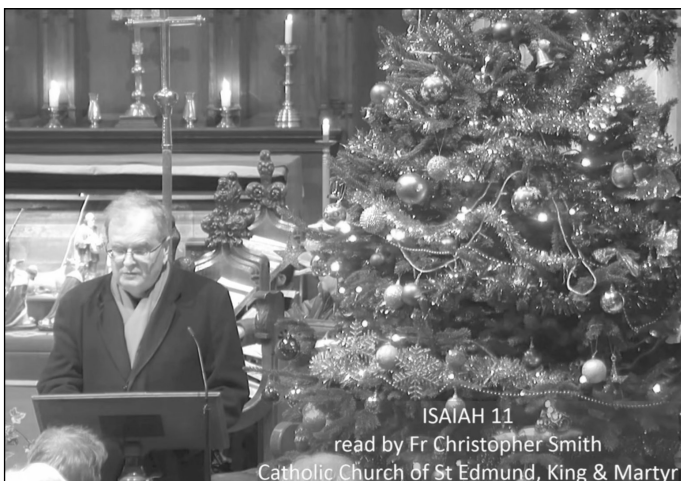
There was a great atmosphere in St Mary's, as we once again heard the story and sang the carols we all love.

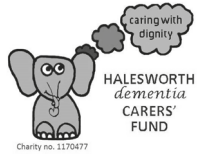
Representatives of organisations from across Halesworth including ASH, Swifts, Blyth Valley Rotary and Halesworth Town Council were invited to read the lessons. We also invited Pastor Jon Sermon and Fr Christopher Smith from Churches Together to read some of the lessons.

Thank you to everyone involved behind the scenes who helped make the service so successful.

It was certainly a night to remember. Some photographs taken during the service are featured below.

It was so good to also have packed churches at other Blyth Valley Churches' Carol Services in December, including those at St Mary's Huntingfield, St Peter's Thorington and St Peter's Wenhasston. Spreading the peace and hope of Christmas in our communities.





HALESWORTH DEMENTIA CARERS' FUND

HdCF Film

On January 17th, our film at The Cut in Halesworth is *The Great Escaper*, starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. Based on a true story, it tells how Bernard Jordan escaped from his care home to join his fellow veterans in Normandy to celebrate the D-Day landings. Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Entrance by £5 donation.

100+ Club

We are now up to 115 members. This has meant that we are able to offer monthly prizes of £100, £70 and £30. The winning numbers for November were 110, 32 and 37. If you would like to join our 100+ Club, please contact Anna on 07721 842802.

New Carers Group

We are delighted to announce that we shall be starting a new group in January. It will be a Family Carers' Support Group and will just be for carers. The group will be meeting in the Co-op Community Room and the first session will be on January 5th. Sessions will be 2pm – 3.30pm. Over the course of the year it is hoped to arrange a series of talks by visiting speakers, including from the Alzheimer's Society and Suffolk Family Carers. For more details please contact us at: info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

Dancing for well-being

This is another new group being planned for the New Year. It will be led by Garth, an experienced dance teacher. More details should be out soon.

2023 was a very busy year for the HdCF, and we have been able to support many local families. Funding for charities like ours is not easy these days and we have been able to do our work because of the tremendous generosity of local businesses, organisations, charities and individuals.

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us in 2023, and thanks to you all we shall be carrying on our work well into the future. We are also very grateful to all our leaders and volunteers for their constant help and support.

On behalf of the Trustees of HdCF may I wish each and every one of you all the very best for 2024.

John Wood

Halesworth Music Emporium

For all your vinyl and CD needs

Call John on 07715 342994 or

Email: johnthrowbridge65@btinternet.com

We pay top prices for your collection

16 Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AQ



Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

10am until 2pm

Saturday 10am until noon

Well-equipped workshop at the back of Chinny's car park
(27 Norwich Road, Halesworth IP19 8BX)

Telephone 01986 835905 or just call in

For anyone interested in working and socialising around a bench for themselves, others or the community

SINGTONG NEEYOM THAI RESTAURANT

Open from 5pm-8.30pm, Thursdays to Saturdays
Dine-in or Take-away.

Call us on 01986 873737

Lunchtime orders also by prior arrangement
37 Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8LE



Stella @ KHG



KHG, Town Rooms,
The Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8LQ
Tel: 0753 4127153

DENSONS JEWELLERS

No. 59 Thoroughfare,
Halesworth, IP19 8AR
01986 873209

densonsjwllrs@gmail.com

www.halesworthtown.co.uk/densons-jewellers



@densons.halesworth



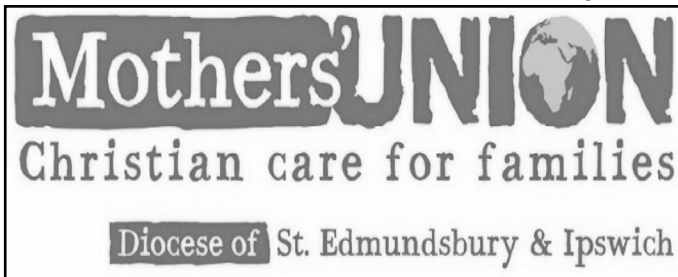
07818 212978

The HALESWORTH BOOKSHOP

Wide selection of current titles
Out of print book search/ordering
Supply of CD's and DVD's
Wide selection of cards and gift wrap

42 Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8AR
Telephone: 01986 873840 halesworthbookshop@gmail.com





I hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year.

Just before Christmas I received the sad news that Brenda Slater, a past Branch Leader had died. I didn't have the privilege of knowing Brenda as she had moved to France by the time I came to Halesworth. She clearly had fond memories of Halesworth as she left Halesworth MU a legacy in her will. Now that we are a fellowship Branch and not an active one I have passed on the contact details of the Diocesan Treasurer, so that Brenda's legacy can be put to good use in one of the Diocesan projects.

Our Branch account was closed in August and the remaining money transferred to the Diocesan account, which I requested be sent to the Summer Hope Appeal. As yet I haven't received the final statement from the Diocesan Treasurer but the balance was just over £80.

Weather and health permitting, I hope that we can meet together again before too long. With my best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year.

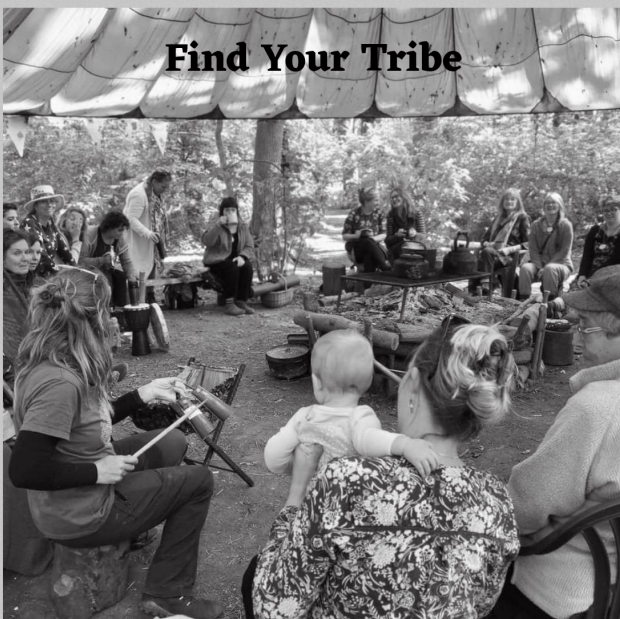
Win Sutton

Email win.sutton28@gmail.com

Telephone 875225.

Kinda Forest School

NATURE, COMMUNITY AND KINDNESS, FOR EVERYONE.



**ELDERS,
WOODSISTERS,
FAMILIES,
HOME ED,
ALTERNATE PROVISION.**



07776117671

<http://kindaforestschool.com>

The MU Diocesan President's Christmas letter:

Dear MU members and friends,

"On behalf of all the Trustees, Officers and COI's, I want to thank you for all your love, care and support in 2023, and to send you the warmest of Christmas greetings and all good wishes for the New Year - may God bless you richly as you continue to serve Him in 2024 through your support of Mothers' Union."

How amazing that another year has already flown by..."It seems like only yesterday that..."

Christmas, and the end of a year, is always a good time to pause – even amidst all the busyness and the general humdrum of life, to rise above our own particular circumstance.

In the Mothers' Union in this Diocese, we have travelled far over this year with many changes, adaptations, transitions, innovations and initiatives – so how wonderful it is to actually stop and reflect on our God who doesn't change: He is the "same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) - or, put another way – 'then, now and tomorrow'. Yesterday's victory is tomorrow's encouragement.

Amidst all that noise and clatter going on around us, we can choose to be still, to remember in prayer our friends and family members, near and far, and the wider issues of the neighbourhood, our community, our country, and the world at large. Prayer leads us into a deeper faith – and "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). So as our prayer-life grows, our faith deepens. With a deepening sense of faith, so too Love grows to embrace even more. Loving leads us to service, and in serving we find true joy, happiness and purpose – it is the reason for our very existence.

So this Christmas season, resolve to spend a little [more] time each day in prayer – praising God, rejoicing and giving thanks (we have so much for which to be grateful), for all that has been, all that is, and all that lies ahead, confident in the knowledge that God is indeed in all things, and is using us {you - even!} to work out His purposes... be encouraged – a whole new chapter can begin!

With love, as ever.

Linda, MU Diocesan President

Kinda Forest

Family Saturdays in Holton Woods

Our December gathering was the first for a while and, despite the weather, 30 of us gathered to create a joyful community under the canopies and around the big fire-hearth of Kaliwood.

All ages created seasonal crafts, songs and stories, enjoyed a delicious shared lunch and played happily in the muddy puddles!

We can't wait to gather again in January to strengthen our connections.

DATES FOR 2024:

January 20th

February 17th

March 16th

April 20th

Email: info@kindaeducation.org

or telephone 07776117671 for more information.

Suggested cost between £4 and £10/ person.

HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH



We held our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 18th November and the event was a huge success. The hall looked very Christmassy and was very busy as everyone enjoyed the warm, friendly atmosphere. It is always a pleasure to see our loyal supporters and welcome new ones.

The committee and volunteers are so very grateful to those who come along each time to our fundraising events and who are so very generous. We are absolutely delighted to report that we raised the amazing amount of £2692.66 for the vital work that Cancer Research does. Thank you.

The committee would also like to thank our brilliant volunteers, with an extra thank you to Alan and Colin who did a sterling job washing up, along with Valerie and Diane in the kitchen with our two committee members.

Thank you to all the partners of committee members and volunteers who get roped in to move tables and generally help out.

We are so very fortunate that so many local businesses are incredibly generous and support our events by providing the

food that we serve for our lunches or by donating prizes for our raffle. We are so very grateful to you all.

Halesworth Co-op, Cleveley's, Spar, Market Fields Holton, Tesco, Allen's butchers, Mills and Sons butchers, Morrison's, Stephenson's Woodside Farm Holton, the Huntsman and Hounds, Huus, Halesworth Bookshop, Angel Podiatry, Patrick's Newsagent, Gecko Shoes, WeaverDeeva, Hillfarm Oils, Mumford's, Adnams, Harris and James.

Congratulations to everyone who won a prize on our raffle.

The separate hamper raffle kindly donated by Market Fields was won by Wendy from Holton.

The Gin Hamper was won by Mrs J Crabb with bonus ball number 56.

Thank you to Spectra who have sponsored all five of our events in Holton Village Hall in 2023 and to EPS Banners for keeping our banners up to date.

Thank you to all the individuals who donated raffle prizes, baked, made jams and marmalade, created Christmas flower arrangements, sent donations or contributed in any way to our Christmas Fair.

We have decorated a Christmas Tree this year for the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church Halesworth (a first for us). Thank you Helen, Paula, Gill and Phyllis for making it possible.

We look forward to seeing you all at our events in 2024.

Everyone connected with The Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research wish you all A HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Dawn Davis, Chair
01986 873640



NO BAD FEET

Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

FOOTCARE SPECIALIST PRACTITIONER

Let me help to keep your feet happy and healthy

TREATMENTS AVAILABLE:

**DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE, INGROWN TOENAILS
CORNS, VERRUCA'S, CALLUSES,
PAINFUL HARD SKIN**

**THICK NAIL TRIMMING AND FILING
GENERAL FOOT HEALTH CARE
AND FOOT TIDYING**

PHONE 01986 872067

MOBILE 07497 371073

**I AM AVAILABLE FOR HOME VISITS
BY APPOINTMENT**

St Mary's Church, Halesworth
Welcome Wednesdays
10am
Holy Communion

10.45am

Coffee Time

Hot drinks, cakes and friendly chat



LAST WEDNESDAY

EVERY MONTH 12.30PM

COMMUNITY LUNCH



2pm-3pm Tots' Time

Fun for under-5s and a warm welcome to their accompanying grown-ups!

For info please contact the Revd Gini on 01986 875541



**SIGN OF THE FISH is open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am – 1pm;
(Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays closed). Tel: 07770 465785**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the retirement of a (very) long time volunteer at Sign of the Fish our opening times are changing in 2024

Monday	CLOSED;	Tuesday	9.30am -1pm;
Wednesday	9.30am -1pm;	Thursday	CLOSED;
	Friday	9.30am -1pm.	
	Saturday & Sunday	CLOSED	

We wish you all a happy and healthy 2024, and may... "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face towards you and give you peace." *Numbers 6: 24-26 (NIV)*

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish

Walking the Labyrinth – A Time for Reflection



Monday 8th January 2024
2pm-4pm, St Peter's Church,



Reflective craft

Everyone Welcome

Refreshments provided. People will be available if you want someone to talk to after your walk.

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

Future meeting: Monday 5th February

Candlemas Taizé workshop and service

Saturday 3rd February,
St Edmundsbury Cathedral,
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS.

The worship of the Taizé community in France has become renowned across the world for its simplicity, stillness and sense of timelessness.

With its blend of simple melody and harmony, prayer and times of silence, combined with the use of candles, Taizé worship provides a valuable opportunity to engage with God.

The service at 4.30pm will be preceded by an optional workshop at 2pm, designed to help those who plan and lead Taizé services, or are wanting to find out more about how Taizé worship works.

Workshop tickets cost £6 and can be booked at cantusfirmus.org.uk

Admission to the service is free.



PEARCE & KEMP
LIMITED



ELECTRICAL & LIGHTING CONTRACTORS · HALESWORTH

www.pearce-kemp.co.uk · telephone 01986 872130 · enquiries@pearce-kemp.co.uk

FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS,
PLEASE VISIT BLYTH VALLEY CHURCHES WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

There are news items and photos on our
Facebook page too:

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



Rehability

Mobility Aids for Daily Living

Probably the best selection of Rollators & Walkers in Suffolk
Top brands stocked including:



REHASENSE



uniscan
the walking frame specialists



TGA & Pride Mobility Scooters

TGA Lightweight lithium battery power chairs

**HELPING YOU TO ENJOY YOUR LIFE
& INDEPENDENCE!**

Kit for:

- Bathing
- Showering
- Toileting
- Relaxing
- Profiling beds
- Riser-recliner chairs
- Eating & drinking aids
- Help to get you out & about

**COME &
TRY BEFORE
YOU BUY!**

01986 873803

shop@rehability.co.uk • www.rehability.co.uk

For mobility aids for daily living, visit our shop:

7 Bridge Street, Halesworth, IP19 8AB
(Opposite the Library)

Independent Living Centre & Showhome at:

Bridge Farm, Chediston, IP19 0AE
(2 miles west of Halesworth)



PRADA **OAKLEY**

Jeffery & Associates
OPTICIANS
jandaopticians.co.uk

4 - 5 Rectory Street, Halesworth
Opposite the Library
01986 872116

Digital Photography
Glaucoma & Diabetic Screening

Ray-Ban *Persol*

thehalesworthcarpetshop.co.uk

**THE HALESWORTH
CARPET SHOP**

CARPETS • RUGS • NATURAL FLOORINGS

CURTAINS • BEDS & MATTRESSES

GREAT SERVICE AND GREAT PRICES

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT:

42 Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8AR

Telephone: 01986 872222



The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd
Dominic Doble**
Team Rector

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



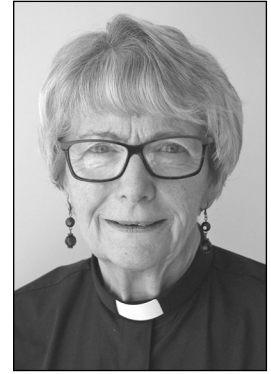
**The Revd
Gini Williams**
Team Vicar

The Vicarage,
Beccles Road,
Holton, IP19 8NG
Tel: 01986 875541
Mobile: 07572 872512
Email:
rev.giniwilliams@
godsearth.co.uk
(Off duty: Fridays)



**The Revd
Alison Alder**
Associate Priest

Oakhurst,
Blackheath Road
Wenhaston,
IP19 9HD
Tel: 01502 478855
Mobile: 07584 416277
Email:
alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk
(Off duty: Thurs & Fri)



**The Revd
Linda Berry**
Assistant Curate

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

The Revd Vic Hopkins

Tel: 01986 875934

Email: csninefour@btinternet.com

Associate Priest

The Revd David Sochon

Tel: 01986 781151

Email: davidsochon@googlemail.com

Associate Priest

Fr Jonathan Olanczuk

Tel: 01502 470079.

Email: olanczuk@me.com

Associate Priest

TEAM LAY ELDERS

Jason Busby

01986 873336. Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Alison Cackett

01986 874442. Email: acackett@me.com

Veronica Downing

07799 484266.

Email: veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

Malcolm Heath

01986 785289. Email: mlheath@aol.com

Eileen Salmon

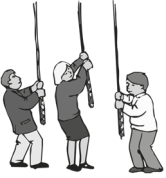
07938 199067

Janet Walkey

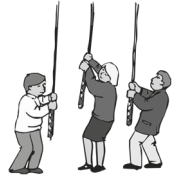
01986 872594. Email: janetwalkey@hotmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDEN	CONTACT
Blyford	Alison Cackett	01986 874442
Bramfield	Jinnie Barham	01986 784254
Chediston	Jo Wareham	07711 066727
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby	01986 873336
Heveningham	Jeanette Griffin	01986 798280
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevett	01986 875913 01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Keith Noakes	07939 527340
Thorington	Mike Gower	01502 478078
Walpole	Ken Allen Lee Hill	01986 784240 07713 450078
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	01986 873173



From the Ringing Chamber



The last month has brought an abnormally large amount of failure and disappointment!

Generally the success rate for quarter peal attempts is quite high, maybe 80%, but December started badly when the attempt at Halesworth for Plain Bob Major, something we can all ring usually, just would not go, and after ten minutes' atrocious ringing I called a halt rather than inflict any more pain on those living near St Mary's. We reorganised and rang something else before the evening service started, but some of the band who had driven a long way, were not thrilled by the outcome.

The following Friday at Wissett was our first attempt at a quarter peal of our method of the moment, Single Oxford Bob Minor. A shaky start induced a restart, which also went badly with a big error early on. We restarted again, only for the same thing to happen in the same place. The fourth attempt was going well until it turned out that my explanation to one of the band about what to do at a certain point had been less than comprehensive, and the ringing fired out yet again. We had been ringing on and off for half an hour at this point, but undeterred we started yet again, and everything was going quite well until after about 20 minutes an unnamed ringer took off in the wrong direction,

throwing everyone else in the process, and we ground to a halt again. Having run out of time to ring a quarter we rang a longish practice touch, and at last we had some good ringing. A week later we reconvened, and the previous week's practice paid off with half an hour's really good ringing, until a lapse in concentration resulted in two bells doing the same thing at the same time leaving a big gap elsewhere, and the ringing fell apart yet again. A third attempt is planned for January!

However, amidst the failures, six of us did successfully ring a quarter peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor at Blythburgh. In terms of difficulty, treble bob methods are halfway between plain methods (like Plain Bob or Single Court) and surprise methods (like Cambridge or Norwich) so this was a good achievement, especially for Erika and Jon who were ringing the method for the first time.

As I write, we are well into the carol service season, with Heveningham, Bramfield and Wissett all done. Unfortunately we can't ring for Wenhaston's carol service due to a clash with Halesworth, and we have Halesworth (3x!), Huntingfield and Chediston to go. Then we have two weeks off before resuming in January.

PJG

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

The Revd Martin Keenan

Methodist Minister

8 Corton Road, Lowestoft NR32 4PL. Tel: **01502 560178**

Email: martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

Jon Sermon

URC Minister, Halesworth & Bramfield URC,

Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP. Tel: **01986 873761**

Email: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

Father Christopher Smith

Roman Catholic Priest

St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church,

Halesworth IP19 8SY. Tel: **01502 723207**

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

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

Tel 01986 875941.

On Wednesdays and Fridays, the Team Administrator can be contacted on

07752 275328 (between 9am - 1pm).

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

BVTM Team Contacts

Geoffrey Kiddy: *Lay Chair of Team Council*

Tel: 01986 873173.

Email: mail@wissettllodge.co.uk

Pedro Cockerton: *Team Treasurer*

Tel: 01986 873431.

Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com

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

Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328.

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Karen Wynne Evans: *Team Choir Director*

Tel: 01986 873431

Email: karen.wynne.evans@virgin.net

Jason Busby: *Organist - Halesworth and to Team Choir*

Tel: 01986 873336. Mobile: 07817 863533

Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Philip Gorrod: *Contact for bell ringers across the Team*

Tel: 01986 875354

Email: pjg@hbbb.me.uk

Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by

Blyth Valley Churches

Deadline date for ALL copy for the

FEBRUARY edition issue is:

WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY

Publishing date: Thursday 25th January

Advertising:

01986 875941/07752 275328.

Email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442
acackett@me.com

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

The Carol Service at Blyford was a great success, thanks to Virginia Storey and John Handley for decorating the church so well.

Thanks, too, to Rodney Camp for keeping the churchyard so tidy.

Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson
07986 217868

joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

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



From Chris Collins:

CIRCLE 67 NEWS

If all goes according to plan, we should have a varied and interesting programme for 2024.

Monday 8th January. An initial reading for the summer's 40th open-air Shorter Shakespeare - this year *Twelfth Night*. *We'll tour to various pub gardens and other venues between July 15th and 21st. A mixture of great fun, a bit of culture and pubs - what could be better. We're having this initial reading to judge interest in also taking it for our 4th visit to the Dordogne in south-west France.*

We're always on the lookout for new talent, so please come along (even if

you don't think you have any). And our Spring production (April 26th/27th) will be our revived *Nell Gwynn*. It was in rehearsal when covid struck, so we're hoping for better luck this time.

For more information, contact Chris on 07495 088454 or email: chris@chriscollins.co.uk

From Jane Edwards:

VILLAGE HALL

The Trustees of the Village Hall are delighted to announce that Bridge Meadow now belongs to the Village Hall. Thank you to all of you contributed, got involved in the fundraising and supported the project. We were going to have a small celebration on the field but appalling weather has saturated the grass and it will take time to dry out. Having only just completed this week it also does not give us time to organise something for the whole village to get involved. So as soon as we can, we will fence the side of the Gull and make the entrance safe, then after Christmas when the weather improves, we will invite everyone to join in and celebrate this wonderful achievement. The Village Hall Fair was a great success raising £740.70 in total. Many thanks to Pat Potts and her family for the mulled wine and the turkey rolls, all the stall holders, Tony Mackintosh and the Harts for their Aladdin's cave mix and the Nivens for the raffle, not forgetting Aubrey and Chris who decorated the tree and set the hall up.

From Dawn Munnings:

CAROL SERVICE

St Andrew's Bramfield held its annual Carol Service on Sunday 17th December. We had almost 50 people attend and we raised over £75, so that was a great achievement.

We were especially delighted to receive the head of Bramfield C of E Primary School with a group of children to help undo the Bethlehem Crib set. Each child was invited to unwrap a piece of the set and then a reading was given by a member of the congregation to accompany each piece. The Revd Alison then read a poem and this was followed by a carol.

It was so lovely to hear the traditional carols sung with such gusto and enjoyment by such a large congregation. It was an excellent service.

Special thanks must go to the PCC, especially Jinnie and Alfred for providing delicious mince pies and mulled wine. Thanks must also go to the lovely volunteers for decorating the church windows with beautiful festive foliage and candles.

From Victoria Page:



Jeremy Thickett of Bramfield Meats very kindly donated a beautiful Christmas tree to the church. It stood in the churchyard over the Christmas period for all the village to enjoy.

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

A Very Happy New Year to everyone

Christmas Fair

This annual event in aid of church funds took place on Saturday 2nd December in the Church School Room. The attendance was good, maybe slightly down on last year, but the result financially was excellent with over £1000 being raised. This was a great get-together for Chediston with many attractions including mince pies and mulled wine enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to Paula Hall for all her hard work and also to the many stall holders taking part.

Happy Christmas Chediston

Chedistonians were invited by Joanna to champagne and nibbles on Thursday 7th December at 6pm to admire the Christmas tree in the church and to hang their wishes on it.

Chediston & Linstead WI

The meeting took place on December 5th at the Huntingfield Arms for a Christmas lunch. Everyone was required to bring a small gift to be distributed. By all accounts, this was a great success and enjoyed by all present.

Chediston & Linstead 100 Club

This is a fundraiser for both churches. Membership is £12 a year with quarterly prize draws. Any subs due, please pay to Cecilia Metherell (01986 785275). Anyone who is not a member but is interested, please contact her for more information. This is well worth doing – I speak from experience as I have benefitted from this financially over the years!

Finally, we have a future tennis star in Chediston:

Congratulations to 10 year old Chediston resident Samuel Batey who added to his tennis tournament wins last month, when he played in an aged 14 and under tournament in Ipswich. Sam started playing tennis at the end of 2020 and now plays for Norfolk, winning the Norfolk County Championships in the aged 10 and under category this summer.

The photo below shows Sam with his medal, certificate and trophy after becoming Norfolk County Champion this summer.



Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers

In 2023 we lost our oldest resident Sally Horne, who died at the age of 102. She was buried in Cookley churchyard next to her sister Kitty. Sally had lived in Cookley all her life, at one time doing the milk round with Kitty for which they were both well known.

We now have a fine bench in the churchyard in memory of Sid Mander, donated by Margaret Mander and her family. It is in an excellent position to sit in peace and tranquility and all are welcome to do so when the weather is suitable for such an activity.

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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-michael-and-all-angels-cookley> or you can scan the QR code printed here using your mobile device.



Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby 01986 873336

halesworthparish@gmail.com

And just like that, we have sung that great final verse from *O come all ye faithful* – *Ye Lord we greet thee born this happy morning* and the furore of the modern-day Christmas is over.

We will be living off leftovers for the rest of January and our attention turns to the Epiphany Service on Saturday 6th January, 6pm, St Andrew's Wissett. The Church of England's *Follow the Star* series tells the story of Epiphany "We celebrate Epiphany, when we mark the visit of the Magi (wise men) to the baby Jesus. The Bible speaks of 'Wise men from the East' who, led by a star, travelled a long distance in search of the new King of the Jews. Later, tradition fixed their number at three, made them Kings and gave them their names: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In the

Eastern churches, Epiphany is the celebration of Christ's baptism. Some countries open their presents on this day instead of Christmas Day, mirroring the presents that Jesus received from the wiser men: gold, frankincense, and myrrh".

We have the chance to sing "As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold" and "Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, star of the east, the horizon adorning" – Come join us at Wissett on January 6th and hear the story.

2023 was a year of opportunities for us at St Mary's. Seeing the building being used for a huge variety of events, concerts, meetings, conferences, recitals, lunches and more. So what does 2024 hold in store...

We continue to build on our mantra "Church in community, community in Church". The calendar is already filling up... bookings so far include... March 25th - 30th Holy Week Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage; Friday 5th April - Chanter's Jigge Concert; Saturday 20th April St George's Day Parade; Monday 22nd April Bohemian Choir Concert; Saturday 3rd August Bread & Wine Festival; Friday 6th December – Lady Maisery Concert *Awake Arise*. As well as monthly recitals, monthly Community Lunches, weekly Foodbank and coffee morning. In addition to the regular pattern of worship we aim to offer both in person and via our YouTube channel.

A New Year Prayer:- Eternal Lord God, we give thanks for bringing us through the changes of time to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past, and help us to spend the rest of our days to your honour and glory; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We haven't had a hymn meditation for a while... if you would like a copy of the full meditation to read let me know and I'll pass it on to you. So, while other carols may dominate the 'top ten', *O Holy Night* once again topping the Classic FM listeners favourite carol for 2023, *In the bleak mid-winter* is the favourite of many. Some prefer *Cranham*, Gustav Holst's fine hymn tune. Others prefer the anthem setting by Harold Darke, rarely sung by congregations but a staple of nine lessons and carols. The version we love by Holst! (the article goes on...). We pray: "O God, whom heaven cannot

hold, you came to the bleak midwinter of our world and gave us the gift of yourself, in fragile, frail form. Nurtured by his mother and worshipped by saints and angels, may we too join with all creation in offering ourselves in service to the one who is Prince of Peace and Lamb of God, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

Lastly from me this month, a HUGE St Mary's THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Advent and Christmas celebrations, from the Christmas Tree Festival, two recitals, Community Lunch, various Carol Services. We are a small team of people, but we couldn't have made it possible without you all. THANK YOU.

ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

Results of the 50/50 draw for December is as follows: 1st prize. S Busby; 2nd prize J Busby; 3rd prize W Pagan.

HALESWORTH WI

Pat Miller presided at our AGM and we sent best wishes to our President Molly as she was unwell.

The business completed, the AGM then took place, the Secretary read the annual report reminding us of the excellent speakers we had listened to during the past year. We exercised our brain cells with one of Pat's *True or False* tests, Jackie being the winner with only one answer wrong.

We laughed at Pat's funny jokes and readings before making our way home on a damp afternoon, but looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Angel Hotel in December.

BP

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.



Heveningham

Correspondent Christine Baker
c_bakerx@yahoo.co.uk

As the year draws to an end and we celebrated Christmas with our candlelit services, all at St Margaret's Church hope you had a Joyous Christmastime. With the New Year comes new opportunities and we hope that it will be a good one for all. For St Margaret's we hope to bring more fund raising events and regular coffee mornings for all the family and continue to bring the church back to the community. Thank you to everyone for all your help and support, it is always appreciated.

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-ubboston>

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



Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett
01986 875913

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Praying for peace in all the troubled parts of the world.

The New Year seems an appropriate time to say thank you on behalf of St Peter's congregation to all those who work towards keeping our life and worship together:

To all those who lead our worship, clergy and laity, in church and on the labyrinth; to those who act as stewards, readers of lessons and intercessors, and support the clergy for communion services; to those who provide music, especially Florence; to the people who sing during services; to our Parochial Church Council who manage the bureaucracy; to the people who unlock and lock the church every day in all weathers; to the cleaners

who Hoover, dust and polish; to all those women and men who provide flowers for services and festivals; to all those who help in any way with fund-raising (Car Boot Sale, Flower Festival, Christmas Fair); to all those who provide biscuits, cakes, mince-pies and/or sausage rolls for services; to the Community PayBack team and others who keep the churchyard tidy; **THANK YOU** for your hard work and willingness to take on these roles for the benefit of us all. **Chris Knevet and John Hewlett, Churchwardens**

Dot has done it again!

Dot's coffee morning on December 14th in aid of the Pear Tree Fund raised in excess of £650! What a fabulous amount. The Village Hall was packed from the time that the doors opened with more people coming in all the time. More tables were needed so even more people came than were thought possible. Cakes, sausage rolls and mince pies were consumed, along with numerous cups of tea and coffee, there was a buzz of conversation as friends met up and tables filled with groups enjoying the opportunity to get together. Thank you Dot for organising another great fundraising event, and thank you too to all the people who baked, who helped in any way and all who came.

From Dot Booley:

I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who supported my Coffee Morning an amazing £650 was raised for the Pear Tree Fund, which I'm sure will be put to good use. Thank you all again and a Happy New Year.

Christmas Lights

It is that time of year once more when our Christmas lights go on, And we come to Church to celebrate with readings, poems and song. We know the Christmas Story, for it's been taught to us from birth. How Jesus born in a stable came to dwell with us on earth. An angel came to Mary, who I'm sure was meek and mild, To tell her she would soon give birth to a very special child. Poor Joseph had to take his wife all the way to Bethlehem, For everyone had to be taxed that year which, of course, included them. They travelled with a donkey though on arrival the rooms were all full, But a kind landlord let them stay in a stable with his cows and friendly bull.

When Jesus was born an angel appeared to men who were tending their sheep, So they took a fleece to the baby boy whom they found was fast asleep. Then men with presents did arrive saying they had followed a shining star, From their homes a long way off, they'd travelled the farthest by far. They brought gifts for the sleeping babe, frankincense, myrrh and gold, For Mary's baby born that night and laid in a manger to keep out the cold. Remember when Christmas lights go on this is the story we once more will hear, So please celebrate with your family and friends as we come to the end of another good year. **DB**

HOLTON SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY

On Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th, St Peter's hosted the children, teachers and parents from Holton School for a performance of their nativity play. It was held on two afternoons as the church could not accommodate everyone at once. John and Jackie were there on the Tuesday to help and Denise and Pam on the Thursday. Revd Gini welcomed the children and parents and the fun began. Both John and Denise have said how good it was and how well the children did. Parents were obviously delighted as some came twice, which wasn't the idea at all, so Thursday was even more of a squeeze! On each occasion the Headmistress thanked everyone involved, and I am sure we applaud the hard work and dedication of teachers, too.

THE CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday 17th we held our Carol Service at the earlier time of 4pm. I did wonder whether we had done enough to let people know of the change of time, but I needn't have worried as people turned up and the church was nicely full. Our thanks to Alison Cackett for leading the service, especially as she had been quite poorly and was still nursing a cough, thanks also to Florence Kernohan for playing the organ and to all the readers. Once more we sang the story, and heard the story of the birth of our Lord and we pray that over this Christmas season hearts and minds will be open to the truth of His coming to be our Saviour.

THANK YOU to Bob Stephenson for the gift of the Christmas tree which brightens up the tower and to Jackie

and Jim Watts for putting it up and decorating it. Bob has been providing a tree for us ever since I can remember which is very generous of him.

THE LABYRINTH EVENT

The next Labyrinth event is on Monday 8th January from 2pm until 4pm. It is open to anyone who would like to come for a time of quiet and reflection, and the opportunity to do some craft, drink tea and eat cake.

**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.




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.




Happy New Year Everyone! I hope you all had an amazing Christmas how ever you chose to celebrate. Here in Huntingfield, we had a wonderful Christmas dinner supported by the three villages of Huntingfield, Heveningham and Ubbeston (with a few other villages represented, too). We had carol

singing around the tree on the Green followed by mulled wine and mince pies, and a lovely candlelit Carol Service in the church, this was followed by a drink of 'Smoking Bishop'. The carols were chosen by different groups in the village and the lessons read by a good mix of people, too.

We now turn our attention to the new year and looking on my calendar I see that we have a Secretaries meeting on the January 11th and a week later our PCC meeting.

For our monthly church service, we are going to hold it in The Hub starting at 10am on Sunday 28th January. Please feel free to join us we can assure you it will be lovely and warm!

During the winter months, the church is open daily from 10.30am - 3.30pm. Small group tours/talks are available on request, please contact Emma Ward (Churchwarden) on 01986 785343.

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

AN ESPRIT D'ESCALIER IS THE WITTY or apposite comment one should have made but only thought of it afterwards, literally 'a thought on the stairs'. I was mulling over the most recent Team Council meeting at which we discussed (what I still call) the Diocesan Quota. That is the increasingly eye-watering sum of money we have to find each year in order to keep the parishes and the diocese, pay our clergy stipends and generally keep the Church of England afloat.

A basic problem is that, since we regard the Church of England, the established church, part of the fabric of society, it follows that it is up to 'Them' to make sure it is still there. The problem is that there is no 'them', just 'us'. If we want it, we have to pay for it. The general public, particularly those who, apart from hatch, match and dispatch, do not get involved, assume that the Church is some sort of birthright and will always be there, irrespective of their involvement, or lack of it.

Ironically, if one turned back the clock 50 years, that was indeed the case. Apart from raising money for the organ, or the roof, as a sort of one-off, fund raising was not an issue. For all sorts of reasons, mostly beyond the control of us mere parishioners, those days are gone and, like our Roman Catholic or

Non-Conformist brethren, the Church of England, at parish level, has to be entirely self-funding. And it is quite a strain. Our task, as insiders, so to speak, is to take every opportunity to explain that, if we want our parish churches to stay open, we have to pay for them. As simple as that.

THE ANNUAL CHURCH GIFT DAY WAS again generously supported. We raised an impressive £855 so a huge 'thank you' to all who assisted in church-sitting but of course to all who donated.

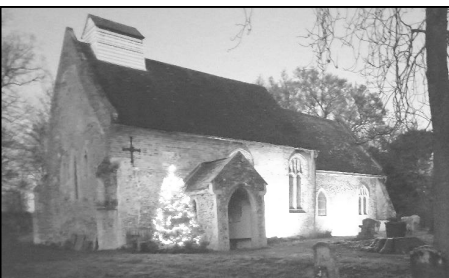
THE ANNUAL MIRACLE WHICH IS THE Linstead Market was again a huge success. A steady stream of visitors came and an impressive quantity of cakes and other goodies were purchased. If you were struggling to find a suitable Christmas present, just remember us next year and all your problems will be solved. Also, almost incidentally, we raised just over £1075 for church funds.

THE TROUBLE WITH FUND RAISING IS that it never stops and so PLEASE remember the Chediston & Linstead 100 Club. Subscriptions are now due. £12 buys you a number which goes into our monthly draw. The more tickets you buy, the more chances you have of winning. And of course, you are raising funds for the church in the process. To renew your subscription, please contact Cecilia Metherell (01986 785275), me (01986 785289) or any member of the PCC.

OUR THANKS AGAIN DUE TO BENNY Fenton and his team for the magnificent Christmas Tree which graced the churchyard this Christmas, together with its attendant floodlighting. The annual reminder that St Margaret's church is open for business for yet another year.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PCC IS at Bardwell Cottage on Wednesday, 10th January 2024, at 7.30pm. *Inter alia* we will be working out the programme for the New Year.

IT JUST REMAINS FOR ME TO THANK all our supporters, readers and indeed the whole village and give our very best wishes for the New Year.



OUR JANUARY SERVICE IS HOLY Communion at 10am on Sunday 28th January 2024.

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.



Happy New Year! I'm So Board

At least from this month onwards you can confidently assume that there will be no further updates on the Commandment/Credal Boards in St Peter's. Why might that be? Because they have at last been cleaned, restored, varnished and put back in their place on the west wall! They have been restored in such a way that their age (probably very early Victorian) and 'antique look' has been preserved, but now any visitor can actually read what is on the Boards, including the Lord's Prayer, for those not familiar.

The project was undertaken with a generous grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust in commemoration of our late queen's Platinum Jubilee. The inspiration came from Fred Woods, who also very kindly transported the boards to and from the conservator's studio, aided by Beryl, who acts as Fred's Google maps. We thank Polly Saltmarsh so much for keeping the project within budget and taking such great care, with attention to detail. We also thank the patience of our architect who put us in touch with Polly in the first place (paintingsconservation.co.uk)

All Carolled Out

As you will be reading this in January, Christmas will seem like a distant

memory, but your woodpecking correspondent has to get copy in during the season of carols and other Christmas festivities. Thanks to all who helped to decorate the church for the Village Carol Service on December 10th, and to the village people who helped with the refreshments afterwards. A good churchful of people, and a goodly number of carols was sung. Our thanks also to Jason Busby, our Team organist, who has to deal with so many different organs in all their various states of repair in the parishes.

Our thanks to St Andrew's Wissett who this year had Midnight Mass and to the Revd David Sochon for leading the Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Peter's. At last your wooden-headed woodpecker now realises that this combination of services is held each year in rotation.

Ploughing On

Yes, it's January and time to get the plough out (or maybe not, as we have had so much rain this year). **Plough Sunday is Sunday 7th January.** As it is the first Sunday of the month there is a **Team Eucharist at St Mary's at 10am**, to which all congregations in the Team are very much encouraged to attend. In the afternoon all are also invited to **St Peter's for a Plough Sunday Service at 3pm.** It is a simple service in which we remember our need for careful management of our land for our future food needs. We will also think of the importance of care for our natural environment as we farm to ensure a sustainable future for the next generation and beyond. Do join us, with tea afterwards in the Village Hall. We thank our friends in Wissett who will be helping us with refreshments. There will also be a **Holy Communion at St Peter's on January 21st at 10am**, to which all are warmly invited.

Warm as Toast

Maybe that is an overstatement, but there is now heating in the chancel and so the electrical works in the church are now complete. That's another item in the Spexhall news which won't be a recurring theme!

What WILL the themes be for 2024 and beyond now that board puns and electrical updates are over? It will be exciting to discover new things with which to enthrall readers of this column. Wishing all in Spexhall, in the Team, and our friends far and wide, a very happy new year!

Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower 01502 478078

trish@coastal1.plus.com

Wishing all our readers a very Happy New Year. We will write about our Carol Service 2023 and our plans for 2024 in next month's issue.

Walpole

Correspondents

Lee & Anita Hill 07713 450078

anita.hill2006@gmail.com

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.



Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

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.



We, St Peter's Wenhaston, wish you all a happy and healthy new year and many blessings. We hope Christmas was all you hoped for and that you all enjoyed it as much as possible.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the tombola at the Christmas Bazaar. I was very grateful for all the prizes I received and we managed to raise £75 for church funds, so thank you very much.

We now embark on a new year with all its joys and sorrows. We hope it will be a good one for you.

January Services

- 7th Team Holy Communion, 10am
St Mary's Halesworth
- 7th Team Plough Sunday, 3pm
St Peter's Spexhall
- 14th Ecumenical Communion,
10am, St Peter's Wenhaston
- 28th Pause for Thought,
10am, St Peter's Wenhaston

Wenhaston Walkers

There was just the one local walk in January. We set off from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 2nd - enough time to have recovered from the New Year revelries!

If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email:

ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Best wishes for 2024.

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wenhaston Community Christmas Lunch

Wenhaston's Community Lunches and Afternoon Teas go from strength to strength, a joint venture between St Peter's Church and members of the village community.

Over 40 guests and helpers shared a delicious Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings.

We were entertained by ten singers from Wenhaston Primary School, led by Mrs Mower. The children's excellent singing and obvious joy in their performance made a fitting end to a special occasion.

Thank you to everyone who enables this important project to continue.

A couple of photos taken during the lunch, are featured below:



WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

We all had a fantastic time at our December meeting as it was our Christmas party in Wenhaston Village Hall.

We were entertained by Jenni Baker who not only demonstrated three beautiful Christmas arrangements but kept us amused with funny stories and anecdotes while she worked. Everyone brought a sharing plate of delicious food and the Club provided the drinks which we all enjoyed afterwards.

Jackie presented Jean our founder member with a basket of flowers and said how wonderful it was to have Jean back with us after being a bit poorly.

We don't meet in January and our February meeting will be our "Christmas meal" which this year will be at Halesworth Golf Club.

We will be back in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall, on the first Tuesday evening in the month from March at our usual time of 7.30 pm.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.



Jenni and Jackie with two of the three beautiful arrangements which lucky members won in the raffle.

FRUITFULNESS COURSE

At our recent council meeting we confirmed that we would be setting up an eight week course called *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*, which includes a short video and discussion. If anyone from St Peter's Wenhaston would be interested to join us, we would be delighted as it is the whole of Wenhaston and our other areas of influence that all of us as Christ's people we are trying to witness to. The first session will be on Thursday 1st February, 2.30pm in the schoolroom. There is a booklet involved and more details can be found on the website of the same name.

A Covenant Service is being held on Sunday 4th February at the Methodist Chapel.

Diana Furness

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.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.



As I write it is almost, "the year's midnight", the shortest day, when "The sunne is spent, and now his flasks send forth light squibs, no constant rays; the world's whole sap is sunke."

Good old John Donne. I must look up what a squib was to him at the end of the 1500's.

But be of good cheer! When you will be reading this the days will already be getting longer and brighter .and we have things to look forward to.

In Wissett we have our special Epiphany Service on Saturday 6th January at 6pm.

The Nativity figures of the Wise Men [and camel] are brought up to join the crib with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. There will be appropriate refreshments after for all to share.

The next day, Sunday 7th, there is the Team Service at Halesworth at 10am and then we are all invited to Spexhall for Plough Sunday at 3pm with a tea after.

Our services at Wissett continue with:

14th Breakfast Church at 10am

21st Holy Communion at 10am

28th Morning Prayer at 10am

Thankfully the church building in Wissett has recovered from the flooding in October and the brick floor looks in good shape. We are in need of more volunteer cleaners to come onto the cleaning rota. Please do contact Kathleen Witherby if you can help on 01986 873339.

It is not a difficult job and I find it quite jolly chatting and laughing with my cleaning companion as I wipe the odd bit of bird poo off the pews with my little bucket of woody wood wash. Why not give it a go?

January can be a daunting time as we set off into the unknown with "all the dizzy strife of things both high and low".

That quote is from the 1908 poem, *The Gate of the Year* used memorably by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast in 1939, "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

We all need a light to help and guide us. May all our little lights of help and love in our own small corners shine bravely and boldly as we set forth into 2024.



Display advertisements in the **Blyth Valley Times**

cost from £54 for a 12 months booking.

Single issue display advertisements are also accepted.

For further information, please telephone

01986 875941

or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

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

- A little bit of history: 4. The Clerical Connection: Part 2

Continuing our look at the clerical connection in St Mary's, we find amongst the ledger stones in the chancel is one for William and Edmund Anguish, young sons of Thomas Anguish (1700-1763), Rector of Halesworth 1724-1735, and his wife Mary, née Elmy. Despite this sad loss, they went on to have two daughters and another son. Thomas also became rector of Weston holding the two parishes uneventfully; in 1736 he moved to Deptford, perhaps owing to family naval connections.

In 1746, Thomas Forster, who studied at Queen's College, Cambridge, became both vicar at Tunstead in Norfolk and rector at Halesworth. He was described by Rachel Lawrence, historian, as "a scholarly man with a reputation as a good preacher", and who praised his work as a Commissioner for the Blyth River Navigation to which he subscribed £100.

According to Michael & Sheila Gooch*, the Badeley family, resident in and around Halesworth from 1693 to 1899, appear to have been dissenters, hedging their bets with one child being baptised at both Chediston church and Walpole Chapel on the same day in 1709, another on consecutive days, and a sister at the Chapel exactly a year after her baptism in church. The family set up the Suffolk & Halesworth Bank but were unable to compete with rivals and went bankrupt in 1799. On 2 August 1803, Halesworth Manor Court Book records that: "Isaac Avarne (Rector) cometh with a deed between Henry Jermyn, Thomas Blake and R G White (commissioners in bankruptcy of Samuel and Joseph Badeley and John Woodcok junior, bankers and co-partners) ...commissioned by the Government under seal dated Westminster 20 April 1799 regarding the Suffolk and Halesworth Bank." The family seems to have finally settled on the Church of England and Joseph Badeley (1772-1837) was rector at Halesworth cum Chediston 1831-1835. His son, also Joseph, became rector of Shipmeadow in 1833, and then also of Halesworth, presented for the living by his mother, Elizabeth Badeley.

Richard Whately, who was rector of Halesworth 1822-1831, came from a well-to-do clerical family, and, although apparently a frail child, studied at Oriel College, Oxford. At Oxford he mixed with John Keble, John

Newman and Edmund Pusey, later leaders of the Oxford Movement that sought a renewal of 'catholic', or Roman Catholic, thought and practice within the Church of England in opposition to the Protestant tendencies. He also came to be held in high regard by Charles Darwin who quoted Whately's opinions on language and civilisation in Darwin's book, *The Ascent of Man*. Whilst continuing with his clerical duties in Halesworth, including heading the Coal Subscription List, Whately was appointed Principal of St Alban Hall and Drummond Professor of Political Economy at Oxford. He was described as, "A big blustering man, of gargantuan proportions". In his *Records of Halesworth*, Frederick Lambert, bell-ringer and verger at St Mary's, recounts how Whately used to pretend to be a ghost in his white surplice to frighten boys scrumping apples in the Rectory grounds. An enthusiastic gardener, he is also known, along with Robert Baas, a local attorney, for cultivating a large-ribbed cabbage, similar to kale, from Portugal. In 1831, after not a little controversy over the appointment, Whately became Archbishop of Dublin; the contrast between running a rural Suffolk parish and ministering in an Ireland during the potato famine could hardly be greater.

*Again, many of these details can be teased out from the book by Michael and Sheila Gooch, *The People of a Suffolk Town: Halesworth 1100 – 1900*; others by wider research.

Jenny Janes



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

Join us for Compline live on Facebook
@ 9.30pm.

Search:- blythvalleychurchessuffolk

Mondays - Alison

Wednesday and Fridays - Linda

Sundays - Jason

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

Blyth Valley Team Ministry

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service. Details of how you can make a donation to **BVTM** are on our website: [https://](https://www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk)

www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk
or you can simply scan the QR code
printed here using your mobile device.



Your donation goes
towards the work of the
BVTM across the Team



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 *Blyth Valley Times* blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

NEWBY BOOKS ON SALE

"THE CENTURY I SAW"

by Donald Newby

£9.99 from Halesworth & District Museum, and Halesworth Bookshop.

Proceeds to local charities.

"HALESWORTH STREET and PLACE NAMES"

by Derek Newby

£6.99 from Halesworth & District Museum, Halesworth Bookshop and Heathside Stores Wenhaston.

Proceeds to Halesworth & District Museum.

"MEMORIES & STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH"

by James W Newby

£7.99 available from St Mary's Church.

Proceeds to St Mary's Halesworth Regeneration etc.

"The LIFE and TIMES of DEREK NEWBY"

£9.99, an autobiography.

Proceeds to local charities and EA Air Ambulance.

For more information, see Derek Newby You Tube and www.newbysofhalesworth.com



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 Volunteers

01986 875600

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

ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

There are collection boxes outside the offices, where produce can be placed.

Want can a Podiatrist do for you?

We can assess, diagnose and treat Musculoskeletal disorders that affect the foot, ankle and lower limb.

Our services include

- Corns, callus & verrucae
- Ingrowing & thickened nails
- Diabetic footcare
- Nail surgery
- Laser treatment for fungal nails
- Shockwave therapy
- Steroid injection
- Sport related injuries
- Plantar Fasciitis

43 Thoroughfare, Halesworth
IP19 8AR
01986 874531
reception@angelpodiatry.com
www.angelpodiatry.com

Online bookings welcome

ANGEL
PODIATRY

DURRANTS

SINCE 1853

AUCTIONEERS · VALUERS · ESTATE AGENTS

12 Thoroughfare, Halesworth
Suffolk IP19 8AH

Tel: 01986 872553 / Fax 01986 874007

Email: halesworth@durrants.com

www.durrants.com

AUCTION ROOMS - BECCLES
HOLIDAY LETS IN SOUTHWOLD

Thinking of selling, or just want to know what your property is worth?

Call today for a free no obligation market appraisal

HALESWORTH (01986) 872553

BECCLES (01502) 712122

HARLESTON (01379) 852217

SOUTHWOLD (01502) 723292

DISS (01379) 642233

WWW.DURRANTS.COM

Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group

We are a group of family history enthusiasts based near the East Suffolk coast, midway between Felixstowe and Lowestoft, which includes the towns of Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham, Framlingham and Orford. However, we are the only family-history group within quite a large part of Suffolk. We celebrated our tenth anniversary in 2018.

Since 2014, we have been meeting monthly, usually in Leiston, with a speaker on matters of interest to family historians. Subjects include, but are no means limited to, local and regional social, legal, ecclesiastical, military and industrial history — offering an illuminating background to our ancestors' lives. Usually the speakers are from outside, but we also have a rich source of experience that we tap from within the Group.

We almost always meet on the third Monday of each month (except August and maybe December), but this may vary to accommodate the regular commitments of a particular speaker or the availability of meeting rooms: variations are highlighted on that event's publicity, but we now almost invariably meet at Saxmundham's Fromus Centre at 2.30pm. The entry charge for meetings is just £3 for visiting non-members, but only £1 for members — tea, coffee and biscuits included. Experienced family history researchers are at most meetings to help with your research.

“Sons of the Soil” by Dr Janet Few

In November the Fromus Centre, Saxmundham, held an audience waiting to find out how to trace their relatives who were involved in agriculture. Dr. Janet Few is President of the Family History Federation. She has vast experience in family, social and community history research. Janet is an author and also gives lectures here and abroad.



Janet ran through the timeline of British Agriculture 1750 – 1950, tracing the recording of the land from the Enclosure Act, the Tithe Commutation Act through to the Agriculture Act in 1947. In 1851 there was a census including acreage and number of employees on farms and estates. In 1873 a Return of Owners of the Land. In the past the agricultural



work force was far larger than today and often a house went with the job, recorded in the census.

Janet has a handout which lists many resources which can be helpful in our research and can be found at www.thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com. Tithe maps and schedules are available at the National Archives and in County Record Offices. Also books such as “Working the Land” by Nichola Verdon: a history of farmworkers in England from 1850 to the present day.

Jenny Mann

NEXT TALK -

CONSERVING YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVE

Monday 15th January at 2.30pm in person (and on Zoom for members only), members £1, visitors £3, at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the Library):

“Conserving Your Family Archive”, a talk by Sue Gibbons, covers general principles for keeping things safe and in good condition. Detailed advice on caring for and storing original documents, maps, books and other paper items, photographs, etchings and paintings, textiles such as samplers, christening robes, uniforms etc, inherited objects including furniture, jewellery, ceramics and toys. Digital media and suggestions for preserving your heritage as a book (hardcopy and e-book forms) or a website, and making plans for what will happen to it all after your death. Finally some trustworthy sources for further help and advice and insurance in the broadest sense.

Sue is a Family History Federation speaker, Librarian of the Society of Genealogists 1991-2010. Author of a book for the Anglo-German Family History Society, Fellow of the Society of Genealogists.

Maggie Strutt

<https://avsfhg.org.uk/>



WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

Tuesday 9th January: Blenheim Palace - The Agony and the Ecstasy. *Lecturer: Anthony Russell*

Tuesday 13th February: Sport of the Gods: Olympia and the Ancient Olympics. *Lecturer: James Russell*

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

Visitors and Members' guests welcome, at an entrance fee of £8

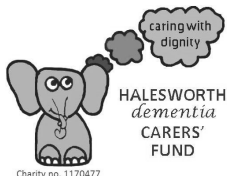
Special Film Matinee of THE GREAT ESCAPER

Starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson
at The Cut, Halesworth

WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY

Doors open at 1.45pm for 2pm start.

Entrance by £5 donation



*Please do support us
and come along to
watch this film,
which is based on a true story*



Rosedale
BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT
GROUPS

Starting

Monday
26th Feb 2024
2.00 - 3.30 pm

*and running for
8 Mondays*

Pear Tree Centre
Bungay Road
Halesworth
IP19 8SG



BOOKING ESSENTIAL

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

halesworth@rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk

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

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

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

The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Halesworth 2024 concert / events highlights

Wednesday, 13 March
12noon for 12.30pm

2024 LUNCHTIME RECITAL SERIES BEGINS

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friend of St. Mary's
FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch

Friday, 5 April
7pm

CHANTER'S JIGGE CONCERT

Songs, ayres, jigs and jollies from around Europe and across the centuries played and sung with ancient traditional and modern instruments

Saturday, 20 April
2.30pm

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE & CIVIC SERVICE

We welcome the community for a Parade & Civic Service
The Archdeacon of Suffolk will be preaching

Monday, 22 April
7pm

THE BOHEMIAN CHOIR - TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF LIBEREC

A joy to welcome back the girls choir from Liberec to Suffolk.
Programme to follow

Saturday, 3 August
timings tbc

BREAD AND WINE FESTIVAL

The second Lammas Bread & Wine Festival is confirmed
Stalls, local producers, worship & more

Friday, 6 December
7pm

LADY MAISERY CONCERT - 'AWAKE ARISE'

"the most exquisite vocal harmony work on the English folk scene" - The Guardian

LIVE STREAM SERVICE FROM ST. MARY'S AVAILABLE
Worship with us from anywhere in the world - Visit our YouTube channel



www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish



For more details about any of our concerts or events,
or if you wish to hire St. Mary's for your concert, meeting, event get in touch via...

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk ☎ 01986 875941 📞 07817 863533

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Candlemas TAIZÉ

A service of music and stillness

Saturday 3 February 4.30 pm

2.00 pm: optional workshop on
planning and leading Taizé services.

Workshop tickets £6
at stedscathedral.org/ievents



Presented by St Edmundsbury Cathedral's
InHarmony project, in partnership with
Cantus Firmus Trust

**cantus
firmus**

InHarmony
Enriching music in worship



Garden Landscape Supplies
 NATURAL STONE PAVING · SAND, BALLAST & CEMENT · RECLAIMED RAILWAY SLEEPERS
 · FENCING · DECORATIVE AGGREGATES · TOPSOIL · BARK MULCH
 · BRICKS & BLOCKS · DRAINAGE · TIMBER
Free delivery in Halesworth area
 Kings Landscaping Ltd, Unit 23 Halesworth Business Park,
 Norwich Road, Halesworth IP19 8QJ
 t: 01986 875555 e: info@kings-landscaping.co.uk www.kings-landscaping.co.uk

Simon Maunder Heating Engineer
 Complete Heating Solutions
 Gas Boiler Installs · Solar Thermal Systems
 Underfloor & Conventional Radiator Systems
 Thermal Imaging of Underfloor & Radiator Systems for Faults
 Power Flushing of Problems Systems
 MCS Registration No: APH 47349 for Boiler Upgrades Scheme
 Gas Safe Registered 517219 **07793 055099**
simon@maunderplumbing.co.uk



Contact Nathan:
07900734124
nathan.khan15@gmail.com
Professional Arborist
 Crown reduction specialist
 All aspects of tree work undertaken · Free quotations



THE HUNTSMAN & HOUNDS
 Stone Street, Spexhall IP19 0RN
 Tel 01986 781341
 E: info@huntsmanandhounds.com
Home-cooked meals available daily
 Warm and friendly welcome



D.C. Patrick NEWSAGENTS
 We deliver 7 days a week
CARDS...CARDS...CARDS...
 16 THOROUGHFARE,
 HALESWORTH IP19 8AH
 Telephone 01986 835730
 4 Market Hill, Framlingham IP13 9BB
 Telephone 01728 724414
 WE ALSO PROVIDE FULL DRY CLEANING
 AND LAUNDRY SERVICES



T&J Perkins Tree Surgeons
 • Experienced (25yrs)
 • Insured (£5 million)
 • Qualified (NPTC, Tech Cert Arb)
 Call Tim or Jack
 Mob. 0754 0450811 or 01986 873494
 Email: teepee1066@gmail.com




PJN MOTOR ENGINEERING LTD
 Wenhaston, Halesworth



OUR SERVICES
 MOT's for cars & bikes, Classes I, II and IV
 Free MOT Retest
 All make servicing and repairs including: batteries, exhausts and tyres replaced.
 Cam belts, clutches, diagnostics
 Air Con Service
 Water Softener Salt Tablets


WE PROVIDE
 A friendly reliable service
 MOT's on site by appointment
 A comfortable waiting area (with wi-fi) for customers
 Free local collection & delivery
 Courtesy car (on own insurance)



Mobil 1 SERVICE CENTRE
 the Good Garage Scheme

CALL NOW:
01502 478642

Wash Lane, Back Road, Wenhaston, Halesworth IP19 9DX
 Telephone 01502 478642. Mobile 07802 965746.
 Website www.pjn-motor.co.uk



atkinsdellow
 incorporating Cross Ram & Co

A refreshingly different law firm...
 continuing the tradition of excellence in legal services for generations...

18 Thoroughfare, Halesworth,
 Suffolk IP19 8AJ
 Tel: 01986 873636

3 Church Street, Framlingham,
 Suffolk IP13 9BG
 Tel: 01728 724111

client.care@atkinsdellow.com
atkinsdellow.com

AWD GOLDSMITH

Specialist in engagement and wedding rings
 12 Bridge Street, Halesworth, IP19 8AQ
0759 7771083
 Tuesday & Wednesday 9am to 6pm;
 Friday by appointment; Saturday 9am to 4pm

ALLEN'S BUTCHERS

Good Quality Meat and Meat Products
 at Competitive Prices
2 MARKET PLACE, HALESWORTH
Tel: 01986 872132

St Peter's Room, Holton

A room within the church
 Equipped with tea and coffee facilities.
 Washing up area/toilet.
 Suitable for small meetings/music groups/daytime
 and evening availability.
Bookings: 01986 835752

HOLTON AND BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

Charity No 291379
 A well-appointed hall with stage, large grounds and car park
License available, if required. Competitive rates.
 For further details please telephone 01986 874442
 E: holtonandblyfordvillagehall@hotmail.com

SPEXHALL VILLAGE HALL

Ideal venue for Clubs, Parties and Meetings
 Training/Teaching Facility
 Available for hire at very competitive rates
 Capacity - up to 60 people
 Contact: Jane Held - 01986 781318
 Email: jane@janeheld.co.uk

Holton Trading Post and J.A.K. Furniture Services

- * We have a 1000ft² showroom of furniture
- * We buy and sell second-hand and country furniture
- * Undertake house and shed clearances
- * Strip furniture and doors * Repair and polish furniture
- * Paint furniture and doors
- * We can also make furniture from reclaim & much more!
Come and have a look!

Units 9 & 10, The Old Airfield Site,
 Holton, Halesworth, IP19 8NH
 Telephone Justin on:
01986 874277 or 07767 861401
 Opening Times: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5.30pm
 Saturday: 9am - 2pm



T: 01986-888070
 T: 01986-873614
 W: mfw-services.co.uk



Computer repairs, sales & services for the home & small business
 Antivirus software by **eSet**
Bitdefender **norton**
New Desktop PCs built to order.
 Refurbished PCs, Laptops, Monitors
 & Printers also available
Need to use a computer but don't want the expense, then why not rent one of our CyberCentre computers by the hour
 1 Miles Ward Court, Market Place, Halesworth IP19 8AY




Hetty's LITTLE **Copy Shop**
 FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING NEEDS AND MORE...
 59, Thoroughfare, Halesworth, IP19 8AR
 01986 873400 | print@mycopyshop.co.uk | www.hettyslittlecopysshop.co.uk

TOWNSEND ELECTRICAL

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Broadway Drive, Norwich Rd, Halesworth
T: 01986 875397
E: info@townsend-electrical.co.uk
www.townsend-electrical.co.uk






micropress Digital

Your Partner in Print!

Micropress Printers have a dedicated Digital Department ideal for your small printing requirements. Our team of friendly staff are on hand to help make any print project as easy as possible for you. We specialise in Bound Books, Booklet printing along with Greetings Cards, Postcards and Calendars.

For a quote call **01502 725800**
 or email **anna@micropress.co.uk**



THE FEEDBARN

♦ SUFFOLK ♦
Pet Store
29 Market Place, Halesworth, IP19 8AY
01986 948100
 A traditional store for all your pets needs and creature comforts.
www.thefeedbarnsuffolk.co.uk

St Andrew's Church Wissett

Epiphany Service

Saturday 6th January

6pm



*Followed by refreshments
All Welcome*