

## WORSHIP CONTINUES THROUGH THE LOCKDOWN



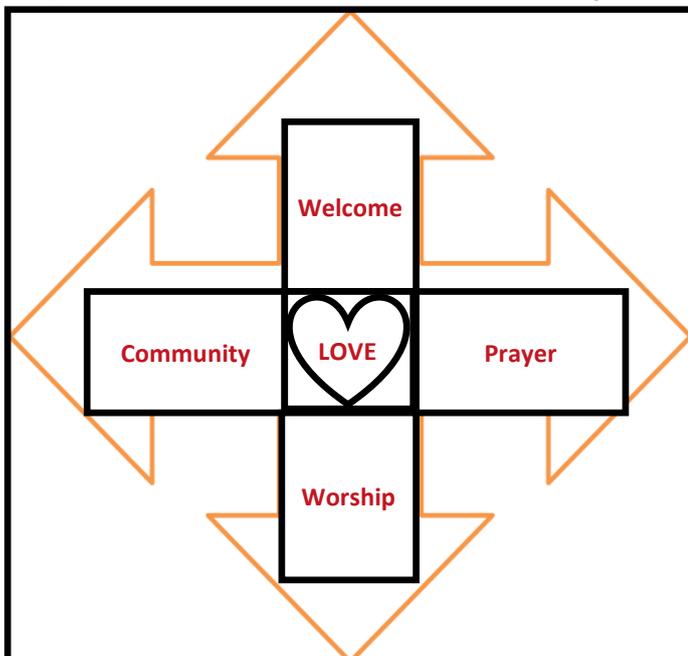
St Mary's Church in Halesworth is streaming the 10am Eucharist services every Sunday during the current lockdown. Thanks to technology, you can join in with the services via Zoom and Facebook. Service booklets and sermons are available to read on the BVTM website and Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk Facebook page. On the website, you can even listen to Jason playing hymns featured in the services - and, if you wish, sing along to these in the comfort and safety of your own home.

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

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

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

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



## BVTimes Subscription Renewals

It is that time of year when our fantastic team of BVTimes distributors start collecting subscription money from those of you who have BVTimes delivered by them each month, through your letterbox.

If you prefer, and since many of us now have access to online banking, subscriptions can be paid directly into the BVTimes bank account, if you wish to use this facility, please could you let your local distributor know.

**Barclays Bank account: Blyth Valley Team Ministry**

**Account no. 13647579. Sort code: 20:53:06**

***The annual door-to-door delivery subscription is £12.***

## LOCAL NEWS

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

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

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

## BVTimes Contents

Page 3	Service Rota
Page 4	Lent
Page 5	Having Treats for Lent. The Dunamis Project
Page 6	From Our Sister Churches
Page 7	Vaccination Transport; Community Larder
Page 8	Worship and Prayer
Page 9	From the Ringing Chamber. Daily Examen
Page 10	This Liminal Space
Page 11	<i>A Touch of the Funnies</i>
Page 12	The Pear Tree Fund
Page 13	Mothers' Union
Page 14	Blyth Valley Environment Network
Page 15	Brampton CoE Primary School
Pages 16 & 17	BVTM Contacts
Pages 18 - 23	News from Town & Villages
Page 23	The Faith in Words Corner
Page 24	Halesworth Museum
Page 25	Service Booklets
Page 26	Halesworth Bookshop
Page 27	Sign of the Fish
Page 28	Community Larder
Page 29	Foodbank
Page 30	Online Giving
Page 31	Money Stuff! Christmas Surprise
Page 32	Halesworth Volunteer Centre

## Sunday Readings

<b>31 January</b> <b>Candlemas the presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> Psalm 24 Malachi 3,1-5 Hebrews 2,14-end Luke 2,22-40	<b>21 February</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Psalm 25,1-9 Genesis 9,8-17 1 Peter 3,18-end Mark 1,9-15
<b>7 February</b> <b>Second Sunday before Lent</b> Psalm 104,26-end Proverbs 8,1,22-31 Colossians 1,15-20 John 1,1-14	<b>28 February</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Psalm 22,23-end Genesis 17,1-7,15-16 Romans 4,13-end Mark 8,31-end
<b>14 February</b> <b>Sunday next before Lent</b> Psalm 50,1-6 2 Kings 2,1-12 2 Corinthians 4,3-6 Mark 9,2-9	<b>7 March</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Psalm 19 Exodus 20,1-17 1 Corinthians 1,18-25 John 2,13-22

## BVTM Team Office

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

**The Team office in St Mary's Church is therefore currently closed.**

**To contact the Team Administrator, please telephone 07752 275328.**

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

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

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

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

# Service Rota

We sincerely regret that at present we can only offer online worship.  
We review this weekly, taking into account the local context  
of things like infection rates, and other factors.  
We hope that things will improve through February  
but cannot plan ahead.

## EVERY SUNDAY at 10am

please join us for a Sunday Eucharist Service ONLINE  
on either **Zoom code: ID 892 3344 9437 Passcode 253438**  
or on Facebook Livestream on Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk

## EVERY WEDNESDAY at 10am

please join us for Café Worship – a reflective service of prayers and  
readings followed by a sociable coffee chat –  
the Zoom Code is advertised weekly

## EVERY DAY

join us for a live streamed short morning and/or night prayer  
on our Facebook page (Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk) -  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning at 9am,  
Saturday morning at 9.30am  
and every evening at 9.30pm



Please check the website for updates  
[www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk)



## Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. At present we do not know whether we will be having a service in St Mary's Halesworth, and it depends largely on whether our local infection rates start to drop. Please keep an eye on the website to find out. New Covid-19 regulations for the imposition of ashes have just been published and we will need to study those too before we decide. We do have however a really exciting lent course – online via Zoom. We are studying Stephen Cottrell's book, *The Nail – Being Part of the Passion*. In the book, key witness describe Christ's crucifixion from their points of view. The group begins on February 22nd led by Jane, and will be on Mondays from 2.30pm - 4pm. Alison will be leading a second group – dates and times are still to be confirmed. The book can be ordered now. It is published by SPCK and can be bought online from a range of online bookshops or ordered via Halesworth Bookshop.

There are also a lot of other Lent Resources and activities you could choose to use. We will order some of the Line Lent –

*God's Story, Our Story* Lent booklets from the Church of England. This is based on Archbishop Welby's Lent Book, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele, published on November 19th by SPCK. Please can you let Carolyn know by February 7th if you would like to order one. They cost £2 each. Alternatively you can get a daily reflection (directly from the booklet) delivered to your phone or tablet. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livlent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

Other resources include *40 Days of Kindness*: This Lent, join people all over Suffolk in simple acts of community kindness from phone trees to thank you surprises and help with practical issues which arise for people under Covid restrictions. So much has been cancelled... but in Suffolk love has not been cancelled. For support in your local acts of kindness go to [www.light-wave.org/lent](http://www.light-wave.org/lent). You could also get hold of *Labours of Love*: this is a flexible downloadable resource for running a Lent course locally. It is designed to support small groups who want to reach out with kindness and partnership in their local community and is ideal to include people exploring faith. The bible-based discussions are fun and help participants to make the link between practical service in their community and living faith. Supported by St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Lightwave Community, this course also draws on ancient Benedictine wisdom on how prayer and work are important in forming a Christian rhythm of life. Download and enjoy at [www.light-wave.org/lent](http://www.light-wave.org/lent)

The Cathedral are hosting an online course - *Run with Joy' Exploring Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living*: with St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Explore key themes in the Rule of Benedict and spiritual practices that help you deepen your life of faith, in community with others. The course is prayerful, participatory and practical, encouraging attention to your rhythm of life and development of a rule of life. It is offered as a resource for church leaders, groups and parishes in the Diocese who would like to strengthen their life of faith and community. Course leaders include Canon Jutta Brueck (With Community and St Thomas Pilgrim Community), Canon Michael Robinson and Canon Matthew Vernon. Three courses will run on Zoom: Tuesdays (from February 23rd) 7.15pm - 9pm and Thursdays (from February 18th) in Lent from 4pm – 5.30pm and 7.15pm - 9pm.

If you have any questions please email: [jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org) Booking links at [www.light-wave.org/lent](http://www.light-wave.org/lent)

Please book early as spaces are limited.

JH

### Halesworth & Bramfield URC

**Minister: Revd Jon Sermon**

Gathered worship is suspended in lockdown.

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

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

**Monday mornings:** (from 22 February) Lent Bible Studies @10.30am

**Monday Evenings: Alpha Course** @7.15pm

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

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

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

All events accessed via Zoom or Youtube.

**Jon Sermon: 01986 873761** [jon@sermons.me.uk](mailto:jon@sermons.me.uk)

**Judy Morton: 01502 724572**

[judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk](mailto:judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk)

**Jo Moreira (for families and children)**

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 776 – 044 – 1926, Passcode: 811885



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

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

for the latest information on Services etc.

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

Find us at:

[blyth valley churches suffolk](https://www.facebook.com/blythvalleychurchesuffolk)



# Having Treats for Lent

When I was little, my mum and I and my baby brother and sister lived with my mother's parents, and then when we moved we were only down the road so I spent much of my childhood with my grandparents. My Granny was rather an austere woman in her way. We never doubted she loved us, but we did mind our p's and q's, aware of the clarity of her expectations, and somewhat fearful of invoking her legendary temper. If I was sitting in church with Granny, I sat still, learning the value of stillness and quiet prayer even though for someone as wriggly as me it was often a real struggle. My grandfather Tommy on the other hand, although very quiet was incredibly warm, loving and naughtily rebellious. "Don't tell Mary" he would whisper as we set off on the path of some naughtiness or other together. And that showed in their different attitudes to Lent. Granny ensured we decided what we were going to give up, bought us an "improving" book to read and asked us to go to church twice each Sunday. Tommy used to offer to read us a bedtime story and read some gloriously romping story – which is when I first encountered C S Lewis and the Narnia Chronicles. He would sneak us treats if we had been particularly well behaved (or particularly badly told off!) Lent, he said to me once, is a time to anticipate the joy to come and treats were part of that!

It struck me, as I was musing about the rapidly approaching season of Lent this year that perhaps this year, we should treat Lent as Tommy did, rather than Mary! Both my grandparents were devout, spiritual and assiduous in their observance of the rituals of the Christian Faith. Both tried to live their lives in accordance with the tenets of our faith. But one saw it as joy with discipline, and the other discipline with joy. Both joy and spiritual discipline are needed. During Lent we are, after all, as Archbishop Justin writes, 'invited to retreat and reflect, to mirror Jesus' time in the wilderness'. But this year of all years we have all, in varying degrees been in retreat, in the wilderness, shut out of the normal life of the world all year. So maybe we need to rethink our Lent observances and disciplines a little this year.

Now I am not saying we should not spend time reflecting on the meaning of Lent, nor that we should treat it the same way as all the other seasons in the Church's year. Jesus went into the wilderness for very good reasons, wrestling with what God was asking of him, arguing against the temptations of his very human nature, those "devil promptings" we all experience. And reflecting on what God asks of us, the challenge thrown down to us is really important. The way God wants us to live is, after all a totally different way to the one our rather easily distracted human nature prompts us to live. Spending time, thinking about, reflecting on and seeking wisdom in relation to God's expectations – to as it were to learn to sit still despite wanting to wriggle – is an important, and essential part of our spiritual growth.

In fact, time spent in a real desert was something many people chose to do as early Christians. The Desert Mothers and Fathers as they are all collectively called chose to go and live alone (ish) in the desert – creating a loosely network community over a couple of hundred years, growing in wisdom with a simple and authentic faith – by the end of the fourth century there were over 5,600 of them. St Benedict began his monastic life based on that Desert model. Why was it so popular? Well, it was not because of an aesthetic, or austere approach that is for sure. Many of the "sayings" collected together, from them show they had raucous and wry senses of humour, enjoyed fun and laughter, and certainly did not just sit and think! To be holy they said required balance.

So, this Lent, as we continue with lockdown, as we continue to stay safe at home, and to worship remotely, let us, rather than choose to give stuff up for Lent, choose a daily treat for Lent. Let us seek balance in our reflections, our prayer and our reading, and seek God's voice in our lives through the way we live them despite Covid-19. Every blessing to you all.

James



Many of you have previously been aware of the Dunamis Project: a series of events to equip the church to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You may recall that this is currently available in East Anglia, facilitated by a team led by the Revd Jon Sermon from Halesworth URC? The initial five-day event at Belsey Bridge just outside Bungay coincided with the start of lockdown.

A follow-up event, majoring on spiritual gifting, was due to take place last September. Covid-19 restrictions resulted in postponement but it will (hopefully) go ahead Monday 3rd – Friday 7th May 2021!

**Meanwhile, the team are offering another day event on Zoom:**

On Saturday 27th February @ your home via Zoom

Timing (about) 10.30am - 4pm, with breaks

A day of inspiring worship, Biblical teaching, testimony and prayer ministry.

This is open to anyone. It will give a 'taster' of Dunamis but will also be an event in its own right, with the opportunity to receive prayer for being filled by the Holy Spirit.

**For more information and joining instructions, contact Jon Sermon 01986 873761 [jon@sermons.me.uk](mailto:jon@sermons.me.uk) or Ada Fiddler-Boutkan 07940 823135 [ada@dunamis.org.uk](mailto:ada@dunamis.org.uk)**



## News from our Sister Churches

### HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

We continued with gathered worship in the Church building the first Sunday of the new year but, with the new lockdown following, we are now back to Zoom-only worship (and YouTube for Messy Church).

It has been really good, nevertheless, to include several joint church events with you all during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Perhaps most of you remember that the theme this year was 'Abiding in Christ'. Drawing on John 15, we recalled the words of Jesus about dwelling (abiding) in Him and in His love. That is how we are to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

I loved the way the readings from 1 Corinthians & Revelation led us on through addressing unnecessary disagreements between believers to the vision of worship in heaven!

As we abide in Christ – and continue to pray for our visible unity – we also rejoice that "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits upon the Throne and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:10). Let's pray for that salvation to spread far and wide (every nation, tribe, people and language)

Blessings

*Jon*



## LIFE EVENTS

### FROM THE REGISTERS FUNERALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES:

#### JANUARY 2021

John William Pretty at Chediston

Janet Elizabeth Waters at Wenhaston

Joan Elizabeth Kemp at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough

Peter Miles Lambert at Wissett

Bertie Edward Norman at Waveney Memorial Park, Ellough

## Wenhaston Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd Peter Rayson

Due to the current lockdown, all our services at Wenhaston Methodist Church are cancelled to keep our members safe and well. However there will be Zoom services at three of our Churches - Trinity, Kessingland and Beccles.

Please contact 01502 560178 to obtain passwords to enable you to join in.

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

Father Richard Ireson

E: [richard1ireson@gmail.com](mailto:richard1ireson@gmail.com)

Please enquire as to the latest situation regarding Services during lockdown

## The Alpha Course – "Explore the Meaning of Life"



Maybe you, your friends or family have been reeling from the shock the whole Covid situation has caused? For some people, this will lead on to wanting to explore the spiritual side of life. Alpha is a great opportunity to do this – **and invite friends!**

Usually, this would be done by gathering at a home, church or pub. But in these 'lockdown days' we can engage via our computers. So, as well as people with connections to the Halesworth & Lowestoft churches, this really is open to anyone. **And any of you can invite friends from anywhere!**

Alpha will be Monday evenings through February – April, hosted by the URC but open to all.

Anyone can come - Zoom meeting ID: 776 - 044 - 1926, Passcode: 811885

The plan is:

- Course starts Mon 8th Feb @7.15pm.
- Sessions about 90 mins. As interactive as you want.
- Friendly chat, a video presentation, discussion of the content and/or your questions/issues.
- Mon evenings plus 1 Sat daytime until late April

**People come on Alpha for many reasons including:**

- Wanting to consider if there is/isn't a spiritual element to life?
- Church goers wanting to take their faith deeper.
- 'Atheists' who live with a family member who has become a Christian and they find themselves challenged by the positive effect it has had.
- Couples preparing for marriage.
- Parents considering baptism or dedication for their child or simply wanting God's involvement in family life.
- Anyone wondering about the deeper meaning of life.

Hope to see you and your friends you invite:

Blessings **Jon Sermon**



## Hoppa offers free service to Covid-19 vaccination centre in Reydon

As you are aware, vaccinations are now being rolled out in our area. We would really encourage you to take your appointment when it is offered. We are all longing for the day we can worship together safely again, and the vaccination programme is the hope for the future we need. If you have no way of getting to your appointment, contact the Hoppa (HACT BUS) currently renamed the "Jab Express" on 01986 875900 or HVC for a Community Car on 01986 874290.

The Hoppa has been running three times a day taking our lovely passengers to have their Covid vaccinations. Just a reminder as we carry on, that whatever age group you are the Hoppa is there for you. This is a free service for all who need to go the Reydon for vaccinations. We will be running this for the foreseeable future. Here are a few of our lovely ladies getting ready to go for their appointments.

A massive thank you to all our wonderful drivers.



## THANK YOU FROM THE COMMUNITY LARDER

A HUGE GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the wonderful wonderful tons of donations that came in at Christmas, the wonderful volunteers who packed hampers for 75 folk, and coped with the 200 folk who used the Larder in December, the team of volunteers that helped make, pack and distribute hot Christmas lunches and Christmas teatime treats and for the generous loving spirit that characterises Halesworth and the villages.

**Revd Jane Held**





# Worship and prayer

## in the Blyth Valley Cluster of Churches



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

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

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

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

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

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

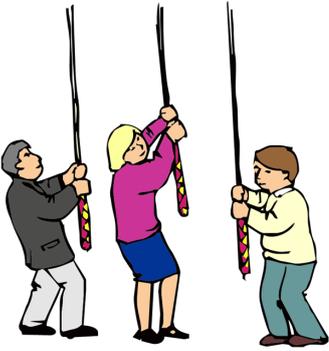
or if you want printed copies, please contact Jane and she will post them to you.

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

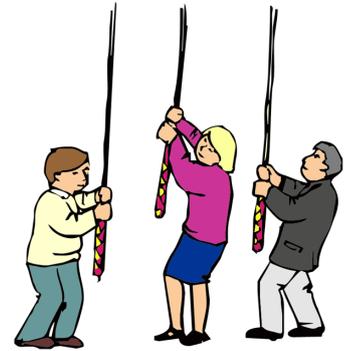
**Prayer:** Every day we pray for: All those on our Team prayer list, the world, the church, and those who are in distress, trouble, sickness, or who have died.

We also pray daily:

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



## From the Ringing Chamber



Whether or not you think that the relaxation of restrictions on Christmas Day was a good thing it did mean that, for the first time since March, there was some ringing on Halesworth's bells. I am grateful to Michelle Rolph for galvanising her extended ringing family, persuading them all to get out of bed in good time on Christmas Day, and for carrying out the not inconsiderable task of completing a comprehensive risk assessment, and ensuring that all possible precautions against virus transmission were taken. Nicole and Matthew had both been tested a few days earlier before being released from their remand centre in Manchester, while Ed and Michelle had had an illness some months ago with symptoms remarkably similar to Covid, but before testing was available so who knows? Anyway, they rang, and we've heard lots of positive comments about hearing the bells again after all these months.

Alas I think it will be many more months before the bells ring again. When will all the priority groups have been vaccinated, and restrictions lifted? Summer if we're lucky, but until then all we can do is carry on with our virtual ringing and hope we can all remember what to do with a rope when the time comes.

Our weekly practices on "Ringing Room" ([www.ringingroom.co.uk](http://www.ringingroom.co.uk)) have continued. Some weeks are better than others, as is the case in real ringing, but by and large significant progress has been made, particularly by some of our less experienced members, and we are quite often ringing some moderately difficult stuff.

We have also had a fortnightly session with just six of us, each time devoted to "ringing" one of the 41 standard "Surprise Minor" methods (i.e. difficult stuff on 6 "bells"), most of which none of us have ever rung before. Thanks to some solid learning the success rate with these has been improving, and the last two times we have succeeded in completing a whole course of the method at the first attempt, whereas when we started it was "let's have one last go before we pack up".

We still suffer from various technological problems that will be familiar to anyone who uses Zoom or similar applications, and Ringing Room seems to be no less prone to gremlins, but at least it's something we can do together to make sure we exercise our brains and remember what we aspire to when this nightmare is finally over.

PJG

## Daily Examen - a reflective way of prayer

During the first lockdown, Revd. Malcolm Walkey produced a whole range of materials we could use to help us continue to worship and pray at home. These are all available on our website and can be printed off for people if they can't do this at home. They are a great resource.

Many people have remarked that this third lockdown is different. It feels bleaker, darker and, despite the vaccination programme rolling out, there is no clear end in sight. One way of helping us through at this time is maintaining structure to our days. I have to admit, I'm not very good at this myself, but one thing I am trying to do is use the "Examen" on a daily basis. Examen is a way of prayer which helps you reflect on your day with God. It takes you through

different stages of reflection, helping you identify times for gratitude, but also to share with God emotions and situations that are troubling you. It is a practice that is used as part of the training for priesthood that Jane, Linda and I have undergone.

There are several variations of this practice, but I have produced a small leaflet which uses the version on the Ignatian Spirituality website (How Can I Pray? - Daily Examen - [IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://IgnatianSpirituality.com)). I hope you will try it out and find it becomes a fruitful part of your day. A copy of the leaflet can be found on the BVTM website.

Revd Alison Alder



**SMALL RENTAL PROPERTY REQUIRED**

**IN HALESWORTH OR HOLTON**

for professional female.

Parking essential.

Initial contact: Stella Cattermole 07850 954013

*Martin Dominic is a member of the URC in Halesworth and is part of our newly established “Blyth Valley Environment Network.” In this article, he reflects on the opportunities we have to take decisive action to address the environmental challenges we face.*

**Revd Alison Alder**

## “This Liminal Space”

by Martin Dominic

During the course of 2020, there has been a growing awareness that significant change is taking place as a new societal world view is evolving. The constraints made necessary to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus pandemic have caused many people moments of deep reflection. Perhaps these moments have provoked reflection on a broader range of issues than those that usually concern us.

Since the beginning of human evolution people have seldom been constrained by any sense of limiting natural boundaries, until recent decades. The heavens too high to reach, the oceans too deep to plumb and mountains too massive to move has instilled in us a sense of earth’s limitless bounty. As human beings spread across the world in search of security and riches we have progressed, from hunter gatherers, living vulnerably as just another creature within the fabric of nature, to become the dominant predator and a threat to the global environment. In the period since the Second World War, we have passed through the heavens to land on the moon and populated near space with satellites. We have descended to the bed of the deepest ocean. We have blown the tops of mountains to open cast mine for coal. We have drowned deep valleys to generate electricity and store water. We are causing the acidification of the oceans and polluting them with our waste. Our emission of waste gasses is causing the atmosphere to warm up, bringing changes to the climate. We see the results of this in more powerful storms, flooding and droughts. The melting of glaciers, sea ice and polar ice caps are leading to rises in sea levels.

The recognition of our culpability has been a gradual process, as if waking from a stupor. The balance of influence on our

conscience between those warning of impending danger and those who choose to deny the evidence has shifted profoundly during the duration of the Covid 19 pandemic. We now hear frequent reports giving evidence of the harmful changes that are taking place all across the world: on land, in the atmosphere and oceans, and the harm that is being inflicted on the natural environment. We are being informed about possible new technologies, lifestyle changes and policies which will mitigate the consequences of our hubris.

We are now living in the liminal space between what has been and what will be in the new model for the way we live our lives. We have been like the child in the familiar verses from 1 Corinthians 13 v 10 -13: “For we know in part and prophecy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, thought like a child. When I became a man, I put childish things behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror, then we see face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love”. Our motivation for taking action should be based on these three foundations of our Christian faith: the belief that we can change things, the hope that we can stop the damage to the environment and create sustainable ways of living, and the love of God’s creation.

We do not know what the magnitude of our response must be or the scope of the changes that may be necessary, but the balance of opinion is moving in favour of radical reforms to secure the long term well-being of planet earth and future generations. We proclaim that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and much of our culture and laws are founded on that belief. If the profound changes that must take place in this liminal space are to be fulfilled, between now and the maturity of a new life sustaining paradigm, Christians should prayerfully and wholeheartedly participate in its evolution.



**In The New Scientist this week there is an article about how we may possibly measure intelligence (IQ tests for example) in too narrow a way.**

**As I was reading this I realised (it struck me) that we, as Christians, can also get focussed and ‘stuck’ on too narrow a path also. We may put too much emphasis on one aspect of our faith and neglect another. The study of scripture, the liturgy, the buildings, the church community or the wider community.**

**Don’t get me wrong they are all important – and many other things are as well but from George Orwell’s Animal Farm “some are more important than others.”**

**That leads to the question Are they? If nothing else this pandemic has given me an enforced period of rest. I have had time to stand back and observe.**

**We need to answer the LORD. “Speak Lord for your servant is listening.”**

**Diana Gardiner**

# A Touch of the Funnies

By Bryan Samain

This month we feature another extract from Bryan’s booklet *A Touch of the Funnies*.

Lt Col Sir Vivian Dunn was for many years (1931-1968) Director of Music, Roya Marines. He was a highly celebrated military musician, familiar to millions of members of the public, notably through his leadership of RM Bands and his public performances at hundreds of concerts in many different locations.

Although I never met Vivian Dunn during my own (wartime) service in the Royal Marines, we both contributed stories to an RM anthology some years ago. His was as follows:

In 1934 the Admiralty introduced the English Hymnal to replace Hymns Ancient and Modern for service in the Royal Navy. Sunday church aboard the Royal Yacht was always important for the Band. King George V and Queen Mary attended.

The King carried a beautifully bound ivory prayer book, and when the first hymn number was announced as 165, he opened at the number required but seemed puzzled as it was

not what he expected. Turning the pages to 265 with no better luck, he remained solemnly silent. This happened again with the other two hymns, and by this time he looked very cross. After the service he complained “What was the matter with the service this morning I couldn’t find my place”.

The hymn numbers were different in both books. On being told, the King furiously commented “There’s a fine thing. Here am I, Defender of the Faith, and I wasn’t even consulted!”.

(From the anthology *Tell it to the Marines*, published by The 1664 Club, 1993).

## FUN AND FRIENDLY SINGING SESSIONS

to support people living with dementia in the Halesworth area.

Join Helen Hayes and enjoy some favourite songs and social time with friends. No experience necessary and everyone is welcome.

We are hosting the initial sessions on Zoom, fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons and Helen is very happy to offer you support to get started.

Once we are able, these sessions will continue at a community venue in Halesworth.

If you would like to find out more, or book at place to join in, please contact:  
Helen at [info@swellmusic.org](mailto:info@swellmusic.org), or call her on 07917 799456





# “

**There is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.**

**Amanda Gorman**  
The youngest inaugural poet in US history





## CAFÉ WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS – 10.00AM

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US ON ZOOM

CONTACT Revd Jane FOR THE CODE TO USE TO JOIN IN



## THE PEAR TREE FUND, HALESWORTH

On behalf of all the trustees, staff and volunteers of the Pear Tree Fund, we would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2021 and hope you have entered the year safe and well. It is with sadness that we had to close the doors once again to The Pear Tree Centre until further notice. None of us envisaged the devastating escalation of this virus, and that we would still be in this situation a year later. However, it is such good news that the vaccines are now being distributed and we can all look forward hopefully to a happier summer where we can once again socialise with our families and friends.

Our manager Seva Newrick and deputy manager, Jackie Leftley will continue to work from their homes. Should you need to contact Seva or Jackie at the PTC then please ring on: 01986 899655, or email:

[peartreecentre@peartreefund.org](mailto:peartreecentre@peartreefund.org)

All our services for people living with a life limiting illness will continue, including counselling, although currently this can only be done by telephone.

Please remember you are not alone, there is always help and support available. This service is available to everyone with a life limiting illness who live within a 15 mile radius of Halesworth including all the market towns and villages.

We continue to work closely with the Big C, so for those recently diagnosed with cancer or living with cancer and who need any emotional or practical support can contact them directly on their free helpline : 0800 092 7640 .

Dee's Den, our charity shop will also remain closed for the foreseeable future.

The Pear Tree Fund (formerly known as the Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund) are continuing to support patients registered with Cutlers Hill Surgery in Halesworth by funding extra nursing and supportive care and occasional equipment for those diagnosed with a life limiting illness, as

well as offering care and support at the end of their lives.

Donations in the last couple of months have been received in memory of Mrs Anne Clark and Mrs Deanna White and further donations in memory of Mr C Shiers.

Our deepest condolences to all their families and friends and we thank them for thinking of us to receive these donations. Donations have also been received from Craft Co in Southwold, Ann Murley and through Golden Giving on our website: [www.peartreefund.org](http://www.peartreefund.org). Thank you so much all of you.

Should anyone wish to give a donation and haven't got access to a computer then please contact: Barbara Kell on 07879428466 and we will be more than happy to send a form, whilst the Pear Tree Centre remains closed.

We would like to thank the Halesworth WI for donating a silver birch tree to the Pear Tree Centre.

This was presented to Seva and Thora by members of the WI, the President Molly Page and Pat Miller. Molly's husband, Robin very kindly planted the tree for us. Thank you to you all.

Finally, we would like to thank Mrs Lois Hunt (one of our patrons) for donating the funds to purchase two beautiful pieces of textile art by local artist, Jo Budd to the Pear Tree Centre. It enhances the meeting room beautifully and we can't wait to open the doors again for you all to see.

50/50 club winners in November and December were: Mr & Mrs Mendham, Mrs J Thrower, Mrs P Townshend, Mr A Witherby, Mrs J Richardson and Mrs H Flaxman.

If anyone would like to join the 50/50 club, a form can be obtained from the website or contact Barbara Kell directly on 07879428461.

Wishing you all the very best of health during these uncertain times.

FM

## Christmas Stockings for Winter Night Shelter Guests from North Suffolk Area Mothers' Union

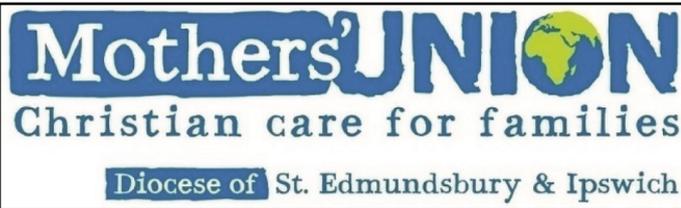
These colourful photographs show the filled Christmas socks and contents which were given to the guests of the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter on Christmas morning. The cost of these was taken out of the funds raised at i-Chameleon by the North Suffolk Area MU members at the beginning of October 2020. Each pair of socks contained items including a diary and pen, a torch, a pack of tissues, a bag of chocolate coins

and a chocolate bar. Selig Suffolk now run the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter, which MU is pleased to support. In the thank you letter it stated when the guests woke on Christmas morning 'they felt truly touched to have been remembered on what can often be a challenging time of year'.

**Janet Walkey (Waveney & Blyth Deanery MU Leader)**

**01986 872594 [janetwalkey@hotmail.com](mailto:janetwalkey@hotmail.com)**





### From the President:

**To all Trustees, Officers, Life Vice Presidents, Members (Diocesan/Indoor) and everyone else! (5th January 2021)**

Greetings!

This comes with the warmest of wishes for a happy new year in spite of everything (sorry - no Christmas cards sent out this year – it was just too difficult). But a new chapter starts.

This morning we had an informal get-together on Zoom for all the St Eds and Ips Trustees and Officers to give thanks for the last year and all that it has been possible to achieve, to rejoice in the present, and to ask for God's guidance and blessing on the coming year. After a short service of rededication, we shared our covid stories - what we had been up to – tapestry, cross-stitch, photography, gardenwork -clearing and planting - meeting the neighbours (including a new birth two weeks ago) and working on material for a new MU publication on marriage – so diverse, we have such a wonderful group working together for the good of all.

I am attaching a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from this morning so that you too can share with us. One slide captures the essence of what we have been achieving in

2020 – it's truly amazing how God has, and is, using our MU members in spite of all the current difficulties. We also attempted to condense our thoughts into "six words" – mine were "Praise God, rejoice and give thanks". What six words would you choose?

Today I was reading about a hard, bitter, peach – and wise words reminding us that "the peach may be green now, but we must wait - a little more sun and a few more showers", and the peach will ripen and become soft, sweet, enjoyable and a blessing. This encouraged me because sometimes I feel I'm just an 'old-fashioned Christian' – but we know that it is because of all those years of growing, ripening – those times when we have felt the warmth of the sunshine, and been refreshed by the showers (and also battered and bruised in the process!) that we know that if we wait awhile, the fruit will grow and be a blessing to all.

So, looking back, 2020 brought sunshine and showers: in spite of everything thrown at us, the Mothers' Union is battling through, changing the way we work but still holding to the "old-fashioned" values of prayer, love, service and commitment. It's been a very busy year...thank you everyone for the part you have played in our local communities but at the same time having a global vision of God's world. Together, we have achieved much, and we are very grateful for each and every contribution. Thank you – and now it's back to work again.

Take care, keep safe, with love

**Linda (Diocesan President)**

## World Day of Prayer 5.3.21 - 'Build a Stronger Foundation'

In recent times the Women's World Day dropped the word 'Women' in order to make this an inclusive service for men and women. It is always held on the first Friday in March. This year it is 5<sup>th</sup> March. It is a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends some 36hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. Over 120 countries and islands around the world take part in this wave of prayer.

This year the lockdown and restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic mean that we are not able to hold our service in person in one of the churches in Halesworth. Instead the members of the local committee are hoping that those who normally come to this service will join together in our own homes on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm. Committee members from St Mary's & the Team, St Edmund's Catholic Church, the URG and Sylvia Vogt for the Methodists will have copies of the service and will deliver or post a copy to everyone who normally attends and anyone else, man or woman, who asks for one. For the Anglicans this will be Janet Walkey and Gwen Woolner (872560).

Every year the service is put together by a group of Christian women from a different country. This year it has been compiled by Christian women of Vanuatu. They call us to 'Build on a Strong Foundation' The Bible passage which is the basis of the service concludes the Sermon on the Mount, the wise man who built his house on rock and the foolish man who built his house on the sand. (Matthew 7: 24-27).

If you are wondering exactly where Vanuatu is in the world, 'Just over 1,100 miles to the east of Australia in the southwestern Pacific Ocean are the scattered islands of Vanuatu. This cluster of islands, stretching for about 400 miles, form a Y shape on the maps and charts. European contact began with the Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros (1606) followed by the French navigator Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (1768) and then Captain James Cook (1774). Cook mapped the island group and named it the New Hebrides. European missionaries, traders and those who wanted to acquire cheap labour (blackbirds) began to come to the islands'. The archipelago of 80 islands became independent in 1980 and was then renamed Vanuatu.

Included with each service booklet is a message from Judy Morton, Secretary of World Day of Prayer Halesworth. 'This year will be very strange, and we will not be able to hold a Service in Church. I would encourage you, if you are able, to give a donation (in the envelope provided). Please pass this to your friend and Member of our Committee. They will then pass it on to the Treasurer to be sent to the General Office. Thank you so much. May God richly Bless you. Judy".

I would like to add a post script, to ask you to Gift Aid your donation, if you are able.

**Janet Walkey,**  
**Anglican member of WDP Halesworth.**  
**01986 872594**  
**janetwalkey@hotmail.com**

**Blyth Valley Environment Network**  
***“How can we live sustainably?”***  
**Wednesday 10th February 7pm 2021**  
**via Zoom**



**Zoom details: ID: 878 9235 0410**

**PC: 546580**

**The Blyth Valley Environment Network is a forum for local people and environment groups to share what they are doing, share knowledge and expertise, and to enable the local community to engaged in climate action initiatives.**

**For more information,  
please contact Revd. Alison Alder  
[alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) / 01502 478855**



# Big, noisy messy!

## at Brampton CoE Primary School



New outdoor play area developed at Brampton C of E Primary School, with thanks to local community projects and businesses

During times like these, when our children's social interaction and activities are more limited than ever by the current pandemic, it's all the more important that they are able to have fun and play. With this in mind, we contacted a number of local community projects and businesses asking for their support to develop our outdoor play area which was in much need of renovation and improvement.

Thanks to donations from local companies Spectra packaging and Colourwise and the hard work of parents and volunteers, our outdoor play area has now been redeveloped with an all-weather surface, tunnel and track for lots of physical activity, along with a mud kitchen, sandpit and stage for performances.

Executive headteacher Vicky Allen says "We are so

thankful to all the parents, community groups and local businesses who have supported us in the development of our outdoor facilities. Our children now have more opportunities to explore, play and learn outside and most importantly have fun, living up to our outdoor play motto: Big, Noisy, Messy!"

The crowning glory of the new play area is a recently installed large outdoor Story Chair, built and installed by the charitable organisation 'Halesworth Men's Shed' so that children can sit and read outside. Alan Richardson from Men's Shed says "We were pleased to be able to support the children in our community, and it gives us great pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of the children playing on and around the Story Chair!"

Photos of our new play area are shown below including a photo of the new Story Chair with Alan Richardson, John Lange and Ian Cockburn of Men's Shed in Halesworth, who worked on and installed this chair.



## Blyth Valley Ministry Team



**The Revd  
Jane Held**  
*Assistant Curate*

Oak Cottage,  
The Street, Rumburgh,  
IP19 OJX  
Tel: 01986 781760  
Mob: 07771 556391  
E: jane@janeheld.co.uk  
(Off duty: Thursday  
& Friday)



**The Revd  
Alison Alder**  
*Assistant Curate*

Oakhurst,  
Blackheath Road  
Wenhaston, IP19 9HD  
Tel: 01502 478855  
Mob: 07584 416277  
E: alisonalder@  
hotmail.co.uk  
(On duty: Wednesday,  
Thursday & Friday)



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

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

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

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

**The Revd Malcolm Walkey** *Honorary Associate Priest*  
Tel: 01986 872594  
Email: malcolmwalkey@hotmail.co.uk

**The Revd Pam Bayliss** *Honorary Associate Minister (Methodist)*  
Tel: 01502 471763 (Foodbank)  
Email: revbayliss@btinternet.com

**Diana Gardiner** *Reader, also Chaplain at HMP and YOI*  
Tel: 01986 784174 Warren Hill and Hollesley Bay.  
Email: osmg.diana@gmail.com

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

### Team Council Contacts

**Geoffrey Kiddy:** *Lay Chair of Team Council*  
Email: mail@wissettllodge.co.uk  
**Pedro Cockerton:** *Team Treasurer*  
Tel: 01986 873431. Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com  
**Carolyn Clarke:** *Clerk to Team Council & Team Administrator.* Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328.  
Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

### CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	CONTACT
Blyford	Alison Cackett	01986 874442
Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Graeme Williams Veronica Downing	01986 875342 01986 873184
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby John Ball	01986 873336 01986 874962
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevet	01986 875913 01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods	01986 781256
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478267
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372

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

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

## Blyth Valley Times

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

Editor: The Revd Jane Held. Tel: 01986 781760. Mob: 07771 556391. E: jane@janeheld.co.uk

**Please ensure all copy is sent to [blyth.valley.times@gmail.com](mailto:blyth.valley.times@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for ALL copy for the March 2021 issue is:**

**Wednesday 17th February 2021. Publishing date: Thursday 25th February 2021**

**Advertising:** Advertising starts from only £48 per year.

Links to your website from our website, £5 per year.

For information call: 01986 875941. Mobile: 07752 275328. Email: [blyth.valley.times@gmail.com](mailto:blyth.valley.times@gmail.com)

### *BVTimes and Team Office*

St Mary's Church, Steeple End, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8LL. Tel: **07752 275328**.

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

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

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

*If you or someone you know needs a prayer or  
you have something on your mind or heart  
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU*

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

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

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER IN THE BLYTH VALLEY

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

• AND/OR

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

• AND/OR

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

## ECUMENICAL CLERGY

**The Revd Peter Rayson,**  
*Wenhasston Methodist  
Church Minister*

38 Ashburnham Way,  
Carlton Colville NR33 8SJ

**Tel: 01502 560178**

Email: [revpeterrayson@gmail.com](mailto:revpeterrayson@gmail.com)

**Jon Sermon, URC Minister**  
Halesworth & Bramfield URC,  
Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP

**Tel: 01986 873761**

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

**Father Richard Ireson**  
*Roman Catholic Priest*  
St Edmund King & Martyr Roman  
Catholic Church, Church Farm Lane  
Halesworth IP19 8SY  
Email: [richard1ireson@gmail.com](mailto:richard1ireson@gmail.com)

## TEAM LAY ELDERS

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

# News from Town & Villages

## Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442

acackett@me.com

## Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent:

Jane Held

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

Bramfield – well, highs and lows are the story of St Andrew’s Bramfield at present. Victoria’s wonderfully decorated tree, so very kindly donated by Jeremy Thickett looked gorgeous – bravely sparking away outside the church despite all the weather that got chucked at it. The tree-blessing service was lovely, though I say it myself. The sponsored stars raised a grand amount for the Children’s Society. We took donations of some £170.21 (some £9 more than last year). As the PCC Treasurer said “Thank heaven for

Victoria’s brilliant idea and hard work;”. Thank you to all who sponsored a star. The carol service was bidding fair to be lovely when infection rates began to rise, and it was moved outside. It was sadly, not well attended at all. Understandable, of course, in the circumstances and we did close the church (along with the other 13) after Christmas as the risks we felt were too great.

It is with a very heavy heart I have to report that it remains shut and will be at least until infection rates make it safer to open up on a limited basis. Sadly, the same applies to all 14 churches in the cluster. That means, of course, that over the year the church has had very little income coming in. We have now got an electronic donation “button” on the website page, so anyone can donate to church without having to be there and whilst we know that money is tight all round, we would be grateful for any help people can spare. Other than that, I can say very little as there is very little news.

Bramfield School won the “school entry category” of “Light up your Window” and Willow Cottage won a runner’s up prize, so Bramfield was well represented.

Let us hope, and pray that as the year progresses we begin to see light at the end of this long hard haul through the tunnel of the pandemic.

## Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

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

I write this in these very strange and uncertain times. There does, at last, seem to be light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines being rolled out but statistics of the many Covid-19 cases are grim indeed. With all the churches in the Blyth Valley Team being closed for the next few weeks or so our lives are very different. However, it is good to receive communications from



“Sponsor a Star” tree at Bramfield



One of the “stops” on the Chediston Christmas Trail

Jane and Alison plus sermons from the retired vicars, this really does help to keep us in touch.

On a brighter note the days are starting to lengthen & the mornings are not quite so dark. I am looking forward to seeing the aconites and snowdrops appearing in our gardens: "they foretell a spring that they do not know" and "if winter comes can spring be far behind". *Carrie Cable of Chediston Hall Bungalow writes:*

Myself, my children Ferne and Robert, my sister-in-law and nephew all took part in the Christmas Trail. We were given a map to follow from the church and right up to Chediston Green, at each stop we were greeted and the children collected a sticker of a nativity scene along with a little treat.

There were well over ten stops, so it was very nice to be offered a hot drink along the way to warm up. The final stop was back at the church where the children had a gift waiting for them from Father Christmas. We had a fab time and it was lovely to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit. We walked six thousand steps too!

### Chediston Church Christmas Raffle Draw

Congratulations to our lucky winners:  
Luxury Hamper – Ticket 545 – Winner: Geoff and Katie Rees.  
£25 Meat voucher – Ticket 301 – Winner: Katie Douglas.  
Bottle of craft gin – Ticket 606 – Winner: Tracey Abell.  
Port, cheese & crackers – Ticket 560 – Winner: Wendy Burroughes.  
Paddington Bear and jar of marmalade – Ticket 436 – Winner: Pat Mattinson.  
Christmas bundle – Ticket 515 – Winner: Tamazine Batey.  
Sherry and chocolates – Ticket 379 – Winner: Ali Mansfield.  
Merlot and preserves – Ticket 322 – Winner: Katie Douglas.  
Bottle of prosecco – Ticket 172 – Sue Morton.  
Rioja in basket – Ticket 180 – John Hewlett.  
Handwash/lotion – Ticket 251 – Winner: Sara Burroughes.  
1 night stay at Blyth Lodge B&B – Ticket 315 – Winner: Katie Douglas.  
Pen and paper knife set – Ticket 273 – Winner – Joyce Gregory.  
The raffle raised a superb £527.50.

The other fund-raising ideas also generated terrific amounts of cash

including: mini-Christmas cakes - £84; preserves - £108.27; festive face masks - £98; other donations - £30.

The church would particularly like to thank Judy Fossett, Joyce Gregory and Ann Williams for giving their time and skill in producing the various items which were offered for sale. And of course, all the above efforts rely on the magnificent generosity of villagers, who once again supported the church's activities. The overall total raised was in excess of £850, which in the current Covid climate was far in excess of anything hoped for or expected. Thank you all - you are stars!

**Chediston PCC**

### Christmas Outdoor Carols by the Tree

The traditional Chediston Carol Service went the way of most events over the Christmas period, but we are a hardy bunch in the village. In spite of a bitter northerly wind, with snow and hail around, on Christmas Eve we held an outdoor carol singing event in front of church by our lovely illuminated and decorated tree. Lead by Veronica, over 40 villagers, including numerous youngsters, belted out a goodly number of the traditional favourites. It turned out to be a super occasion and the whole scene looked magical. After the singing, the carollers wandered through the beautifully decorated church, with its newly installed nativity scene, including another tree and the usual candles everywhere. So a big raspberry to Covid, we still did it! (All socially distanced of course).

### Chediston Church – Cessation of Services

Further to the Government moving Suffolk into Tier Four Covid-19 restrictions, it is with regret that we must announce that collective worship at St Mary's, Chediston is cancelled for the foreseeable future. Sadly, that also includes opening for private prayer as well, but we will open up as soon as it is safe to do so. Please keep an eye on the village website and various noticeboards for the latest information.

In the meantime, why not join Blyth Valley Churches' livestreamed services online:

**Facebook** Blyth Valley Churches Suffolk Facebook page:

Morning prayer - Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday, 9am and Saturday 9.30am.

Evening Prayer – Monday-Sunday 9.30pm.

Sunday Eucharist – 10am.

### Zoom worship:

Sunday Eucharist 10am Meeting ID: 892 3344 9437 Passcode: 253438

Wednesday Morning Café Church 10am – contact the Revd Alison alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk for the access code.

Under these difficult circumstances, we send our best wishes to parishioners for the New Year and hope for a much better 2021.

## Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby  
01986 873336

Do you remember the Most Revd Michael Curry (Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States)? Bishop Curry was the overly excited, charismatic, joyous Preacher at the wedding of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex back in 2018. A few weeks ago his Christmas message popped up while scrolling through facebook and a snippet has been published in Church Times and I share his sentiments entirely.

*"Although they might be hurting and fearful themselves, Christians must be bearers of joy to the world this year. While we may not feel joyful at the moment, as the pandemic of disease continues to bring sickness and death, when fear and mistrust – a darkness – threaten to overcome the light, we, as followers of Jesus Christ, must bear joy to this aching world. We must shine light into the darkness. Feed those who are hungry; welcome the stranger; clothe those who are naked; heal those who are sick; visit the prisoner. Love God. Love your neighbour. Sing joy to this world".*

His Christmas message was inspired by the message from St John's Gospel that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

2021 isn't the 'Happy New Year' we longed for but more 'Happy New Lockdown!' We did see joy at Christmas

and I trust you did too? We held a traditional Christingle Service for 30 in church and a few joined us online. Midnight Mass at St Andrew's Wissett gave us a moment to touch base with God in our own way in the beautifully decorated and candlelit Church. Christmas Day Facetime and Whatsapp calls with family, presents, food and drink gave a small sense of normality. We give thanks to the army of volunteers who gave up part of their Christmas Day to ensure hot lunches with all the trimmings were cooked and delivered.

The decision to close all Blyth Valley

Churches for January, to stop gathered worship and move worship online was in my opinion the right one. Although I was interested to read from Bishop Martin that one of the reasons for keeping Churches open nationally, is the statistic of only 47 cases of Covid have been linked to places of worship out of some 30,000 buildings for worship across the UK!

Our lives are currently defined by Covid, more than a million people have died worldwide. We pray for them all thinking of the words from St John "The light shines in the darkness". The joyful thoughts we have of families

getting more time to spend together, birdsong can be heard. The ingenuity of our scientists have brought vaccines. When the inevitable public enquiry into the disaster comes, it should not forget to celebrate the joy/goodside.

We have celebrated Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ virtually, which marks the beginning of a season which recognises Jesus to be the Son of God. The season of Epiphany lasts until February 2nd. Then we remember the Presentation of Jesus, when he is brought to the Temple by his parents. There he is recognised by Simeon, who declares him to be "a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel"; this service is known as Candlemas.

Over Christmas and New Year we remembered our late Rector, the Revd Edward Rennard, whose year's mind was on December 30th. We pray for Margaret who was able to spend a couple days over Christmas with her daughter Clare and son-in-law Pete and grandchildren. Clare hadn't been home since Edward's funeral back in January. Rest in Peace, Edward, and rise in glory.

I annoyingly didn't take any photos of the beautiful flower arrangements which have been in St Mary's during Christmas, however a HUGE St Mary's thank you to all those who contributed.

I can report that out of £27,576 parish share we have been able to pay £16,500 for 2020. Despite the lack of fundraising opportunities this is an incredible achievement so thank you to everyone who financially contributes to the life of St Mary's.

I leave you with a Valentine's Day Blessing – "God, you made us to fall in love. You long for us to reach out, to risk all and to be found by love. Jesus, you come to show the way to love and to be loved, the power and vulnerability, the pain and possibility of love. Spirit, you are the pulse of life beating in our hearts, echoing the heartbeat of divine love. Bless us now, Father, Son and Spirit, that we may find ourselves swept up in your passionate embrace." Amen.

Stay safe everyone. HAPPY LOCKDOWN.

PS – If you would like a copy of the latest 'Hymn Workshop' do let me know and I'll send you one. The hymn is called 'Love one another' words: Paraphrase of 1 John 4.7-19 with music



Photographs from one of the live-streamed Sunday 10am Eucharist services in St Mary's Halesworth

by John Bell (b1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019) tune: EWALEY. A hymn from the Iona Community. "Last year saw the celebration of John Bell's 70th birthday, but as the year closed, on December 29th, his colleague and friend of the Iona Community, Graham Maule, died of cancer.

This hymn was one of their last collaborations.

## Holton

**Temporary Correspondent**  
**John Hewlett 01986 875913**  
**johnfhewlett@btinternet.com**

### Lockdown

We regret that we will not be holding services during February.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) plans to meet on Thursday 11th February to discuss, among other things, opening the church for worship and/or private prayer. Please contact PCC members if you have strong feelings about either of these: members are Chris Knevett, Gill Johnson, Jackie Moulson, Janet Walkey, John Hewlett, Mary Curtis, and Simon Larbey; and the meetings are chaired by the Revd Alison Alder.

We hope also to discuss possible dates for the Car Boot Sale, the Flower Festival and even the Christmas Fair. Whether any or all of these happen will depend on the regulations and restrictions at the time

### Readings & Carols

As many Churches were unable to have traditional services this year, Holton being one of those, I would like to say a big "thank you" to John Hewlett for putting together a wonderful service for the congregation of 29 people on December 20th.

As you are well aware we are not permitted to sing in church but we had a superb collection of carols recorded and sung by the choirs of Durham and York Cathedrals. Looking around I saw many a wet eye among those listening.

Thank you must go to Florence for playing the organ and also to Lottie Atkins for decorating the Christmas tree, kindly donated by Bob Stephenson. Lottie was very disappointed that there wasn't going to

be a Christingle Service as she normally is one of the helpers putting the oranges together, so well done Lottie for doing the tree. Another thank you goes to Dot for one of her cleverly put together poems, this time about Corona Carols.

Stay safe, keep well and see you in 2021.

Helen Knevett

### Fund Raising

Our thanks go to Florence Kernohan, who has made innumerable face masks and sold them for St Peter's, making over £600 in the process; and Chris Knevett who has made bird-boxes for sale, in time for the traditional bird-nesting date of St Valentine's Day. Florence writes "I would like to thank all those people who bought face-masks from me, which helped Holton Church finances." To quote *Good Housekeeping*, "Now is the time of year when the heart of the housewife turns to marmalade", and Janet Walkey and Jilly Hewlett have both been busy. If you want to buy this year's marmalade, please phone Janet on 01986 872594 or Jilly on 01986 875913; money raised will go to St Peter's.

### One Million Steps

We are now in our third lockdown  
 So I'm feeling rather glum.

I walk the dog each morning,  
 She's become my dearest chum.

It was started in the Springtime  
 As I watched the tree buds grow;

The sun shone on us in summer  
 And yesterday we had some snow.

Today feels like a milestone;

While walking my phone did ping  
 To tell me I'd walked a million steps

Since the lockdown in the spring.

When you're on your own it's tricky,  
 Your life line is the phone;

Family and friends try to keep in touch  
 And sometimes have a moan.

So I've walked and walked in  
 lockdown,

Met people along the way,

I always smile and say Hello

When meeting them each day.

My next million steps will be, I hope,  
 Achieved in a time when we are free  
 When we can walk and talk with each  
 other again

On the prom overlooking the sea.

Dottie Booley

## HOLTON & BLYFORD

### VILLAGE HALL TOTE WINNERS

Here are the January Tote winners for the Holton & Blyford Village Hall draw.

1st prize, £25, Colin Hicks; 2nd prize, £10, Simon and Maggie Larby; 3rd prize, £5 Bob Stephenson; 4th prize Cilla Stammers.

## Linstead

### Correspondent

**Malcolm Heath 01986 785289**

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

WE ARE TOLD ABOUT THE LIGHT AT the end of the tunnel, but it does seem to be a long and winding one. Each new vaccine is announced, with much jubilation and its merits, loudly trumpeted. We can only hope, as the cases multiply, that one of them, any of them, will soon find its way into our arms.

MEANWHILE, OF COURSE LIFE, OF A sort goes on, or rather doesn't. Chediston & Linstead WI has no meeting planned in February. However, each member was contacted prior to Christmas, so that they are very much together in spirit.

LINSTEAD ENJOYED A CHRISTMAS carols by candlelight extravaganza. The modest, socially distanced congregation, heard the Christmas message and were rewarded by the combined forces of four different choirs, with the late Luciano Pavarotti paying a surprise visit. Afterwards, socially distanced mulled wine and mince pies were made available. A gentle and, for me, a remarkably moving occasion. As ever, our thanks to our team of readers, our mincer of pies and muller of wine.

WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO the draw for the 100 Club. This covered the period from July to December and the winners were:

**July:** £15 - 39 - J Frost; £10 - 4 - A Read; £5 - 35 - P Wilkinson. **August:** £15 - 52 - Warehams; £10 - 54 - Warehams; £5 - 75 - Fossett. **September:** £15 - 55 - Wareham; £10 - 11 - A Frost; £5 - 92 - J Mantell. **October:** £15 - 75 - Fossett; £10 - 32 - P Read; £5 - 95 - V Wilkinson. **November:** £15 - 2 - C Metherell; £10 - 40 - J Frost; £5 - 23 - Sands. **December:** £15 - 47 - Mullen-Henderson; £10 - 102 - M Meredith; £5 - 61 - P Mattinson.

NOW THE SUBS FOR THE 100 CLUB for

2021 are now due. Each number costs £12 per year and you may have as many numbers as you want.

In the interests of Social Distancing, if you could drop your payment, by cash or (preferably) cheque into my letter box, I should be most grateful. For obvious reasons, neither Cecilia or I wish to go collecting subs. However, because of the lack of church services, the support that you give will be even more important.

ON THE TOPIC OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, the annual subscriptions to the Blyth Valley Times are also due. The sub remains at £12 for the year, amazing value for money. Without the *BVTimes* you are in limbo. Doubly so when in the state of lockdown which we currently find ourselves. Again, although we will continue to deliver the *BVTimes*, we do not want to collect the subs in person. So if you would send your payment to either Roger Wilkinson (Bardwell Cottage) or me (Dormy House), we would greatly appreciate it. Just post it to us or leave it in our letterboxes. Thank you very much.

*(Editor's note: If it is more convenient for you, subscription payments can be made directly into the BVTimes bank account - Sort code 20-53-06, a/c no 13647579 (Barclay's Bank), A/c name: Blyth Valley Team Ministry. If you use this method of payment, please let your BVTimes distributor know that you have*

*paid in this manner and please add a reference (BVT sub, your name and Parish) with your payment to assist us when identifying it).*

THE CHRISTMAS TREE, WHICH graced the churchyard and the floodlights which, over Christmas, illuminated our church are now just a memory. May I repeat my thanks to Benny Fenton and his team for dispelling the encircling gloom and providing a kindly light. Linstead Church is alive and well, against all the odds!

AS YOU WILL HAVE INFERRED, THERE are no services planned for February. Since our touchstone has to be 'Safety First', plans for March and beyond will be totally dependent on Messrs Pfizer, Astra-Zeneca *et al.* Just concentrate on keeping well!

ASSUMING THAT THINGS DO GET better, we are optimists after all, these are a few dates for your calendar. They are, to put it mildly, tentative but we hope for the best.

Mothering Sunday: March 14th.

Easter Sunday: April 4th.

Summer Barbecue: Saturday 5th June.

Patronal Festival: Sunday 18th July.

Linstead Village Fête: Saturday 7th August.

Harvest Festival: Sunday 3rd October, 6.30pm.

Harvest Supper: Saturday 16th September.

Remembrance Sunday: November 14th.

Linstead Market: Saturday 27th November

Carols by Candlelight: Sunday 19th December, 3pm.

## Spexhall

Correspondent Janet Sochon

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

After the tale of woe of "nothing happening" (church-wise") of late in Spexhall, it is great to be able to report that the War Memorial has been thoroughly cleaned and looks absolutely wonderful. We are deeply indebted to John Maynard and Ben Quorn who have done this free of charge – such a generous gesture! Monies that had been raised through the appeal will now be able to be spent on renovating some of the names which had become less legible.

Snowdrops and aconites are pushing through in the gardens and the first daffodils are also appearing giving us all renewed hope and expectation of brighter days ahead. The roll-out of the vaccine programme also gives us renewed optimism that the worst is behind us as long as we all respond together by staying safe and following the advice to keep our distance to avoid spreading the virus.

We thank Jane and the Ministry Team



Spexhall's war memorial



for keeping our regular worship going, albeit virtually, and look forward to the time when we shall be able to celebrate together once more.

Hope, stay safe, and hope some more...

## Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower

01502 478267

Wishing all our readers to keep well during this difficult strange pandemic time and thank you to all for your hard work behind the scenes, keeping us informed of updates with regard to church services and much more... looking forward to brighter and better news and reports for Spring..

Thorington Church is standing and there's a lovely churchyard with a seat or two so do please visit the outside! enjoy a prayer there.

Trish Gower and the PCC

## Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

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

I do hope that you are all bearing up during this lockdown and that some of you have been lucky enough to receive the vaccination against the virus.

It is a very trying time for us all, especially those of us who live alone.

Jane, Alison and Linda have been working hard to keep us all included by streaming and zooming services, saying morning and evening prayer, zooming Café Church on Wednesdays and providing listening ears by phone to any who are lonely or worried. For those who are unable to go online, there are paper copies of all the services available, just contact one of the clergy.

Don't forget that the foodbank and Pantry are operating in Halesworth and the HVC will help with shopping, doctor's appointments etc.

I also see that the Community Bus is going to be available to take folks for their vaccinations, which is marvellous.

Stay safe and well and God Bless.

## Wissett

Correspondent Nick Evans

01986 872372

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

Looking back now, we were in a very fortunate candlelit interval.

Jane created a Christmas Service of readings and music, which David led, but of course with no carol singing. Jason played the organ, and there were recordings, in particular a beautiful solo by Matthew Wetmore's son-in-law. We were surrounded with

traditional decorations by Susan Fitch and her team, and another fine tree kindly given to us by Bob Stephenson.

Then the same team for Midnight Mass: not everyone who booked could make it through the floods, but there were safe capacity congregations for both (*precise numbers, please, for Statistics for Mission*).

But soon after, as predicted, the curtain came down again: Epiphany was lost, together with the regular services, and we had to lock the church.

Therefore, more quiet time for churchwardens (*Stats for Mission required by the end of January!*) who sadly have little hope of a Clipping to arrange on February 16th, but the wonderful chance for the treasurer to face up to the dismal accounts for 2020. Recouping several years' Gift Aid enabled us to pay the Parish Share, but it does not look definitely achievable this year.

Meanwhile we have invested in a special alarm for the lead on the porch roof, spurred on by a diocesan initiative and a 50% grant. It makes a loud noise, and there are near neighbours, but we are advised that false alarms from cats, birds, etc. are very rare. Lead was actually stolen a few years ago.

Last week Miles Lambert, from a distinctly military family, was buried in the churchyard next to his parents, who he succeeded at Ash Tree Farm.

## The Faith in Words Corner

The longer lockdown goes on the more we need to know about some good books to read, good resources to use and good worship to share in. We will use the Faith in Words Corner every month to share good books we have read, good programmes, documentaries, and discussion shows, good worship and prayer apps we have come across or anything else we can share to help us read, reflect, learn and grow in our faith. Anyone is welcome to tell us about something they have found personally helpful/interesting/challenging or just plain fun. Just ask Carolyn to add it into the monthly *Faith In Words* corner. This month I am kicking things off with three books (quite apart from the Lent book recommended in the Lent column) and a daily prayer app I find really helpful.

*Thy Will Be Done*, by Stephen Cherry is a 2021 Lent Book, published by Bloomsbury Press. I am loving it. It explores the Lords Prayer in many different ways and finds inspiration in the writing of many theologians and in contemporary voices too such as Evelyn Underhill and Michelle Obama. One of those books you can read cover to cover, or dip in and out of.

Two recent publications written in response to the pandemic are: *Candles in the Dark: Faith, hope and love in a time of*

*pandemic* by Rowan Williams, published by SPCK and *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath* by Professor Tom Wright also published by SPCK are both worth a read. Tom Wright's book examines current responses and reactions to the pandemic and finds them wanting. Instead, he invites you to consider a different way of seeing and responding - a way that draws on the teachings and examples of scripture, and above all on the way of living, thinking and praying revealed to us by Jesus. Rowan's book is a collection of the weekly reflections he wrote as part of the daily online bulletin at St Clements in Cambridge over six months, It is a lovely, gentle, ruminative sort of daily reflection diary, ideal to read daily, when time is short and a little "time out" needed.

An App I use daily is called *Pray As You Go*: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/> which is available online, on phone or tablet. It is a Jesuit Society app, much to my surprise when I first began to use it. I tend to use it when I am waiting for something - it is a great 5-12 minute way to pray daily.

Enjoy, explore, and send in your recommendations!



## Halesworth & District Museum

### From the Archives

# The Hooker Memorial, St Mary's Church, Halesworth

On the wall just by the south porch in St Mary's is a memorial plaque to Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) and his son, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817-1911). Papers related to the erection of this plaque have recently been donated to the Museum.

William was a maltster and lived at Hooker House in Quay Street, where Joseph was born, from 1809 until 1820. Both were much more interested in botany, however, and William was then appointed Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow University, whilst Joseph grew up and qualified as a doctor, pursuing his interest in botany when a ship's surgeon in the South Pacific and the Antarctic. Joseph was much influenced by Charles Darwin and the pair became lifelong friends and colleagues. In 1841 William became the first Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, succeeded by Joseph, who had joined him there in the mid-1850s. Both were knighted for their services.

In 1928 it seems that Professor Francis Wall Oliver started discussion with James William Lowther, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Ullswater, about, "...a tablet to the memory of Sir Joseph and his father at Halesworth." Professor Oliver was the son of Daniel Oliver, a self-taught botanist, recruited to Kew by William Hooker through his son, Joseph's, father-in-law, Professor John Stevens Henslow. Lord Ullswater had been Speaker of the House of Commons before retiring; his country seat was the High House Estate in Campsea Ash and he was a long-standing friend of Joseph Hooker.

Lord Ullswater spoke to the Reverend Henry Christian Newbery, Rector of Halesworth at the time, and then an informal committee was formed to seek approval by the diocese for the memorial. Some local Halesworth people involved in the project were Ernest Roe, draper, Cecil Goodwin, Bon Marché, Frederick Lambert, bell ringer and verger, and Herbert Baker, dealer in antiquities.

Meanwhile, Professor Oliver sought the support of the botanical world and the Hooker family; this was readily given. He was also tasked with seeking an artist to create the memorial and, on the recommendation of Henry Tonks, Head of the Slade School of Fine Art, chose Alfred Horace "Gerry" Gerrard, an English modernist sculptor who, at the time, also had a house in Wenhaston.

The cost of the memorial was met by donations from botanists and other individuals, from various societies and institutions including the British Museum, and some profits from the publication, *The Makers of British Botany*.

The project progressed relatively smoothly, with some confusion when the sculpture was found to be well-advanced before the design had been approved by the Advisory Committee and a faculty granted. Then in June, Reverend Newbery professed to know nothing of the memorial, having a vague memory of meeting someone in the church who talked about it, but had assumed it had fallen through!

However, all was well and on Sunday 17 August 1930, some 140 visitors joined the local congregation to fill St Mary's; some travelled in a hired coach at a cost of about 7s.6d (about 38 pence in decimal coinage). A service was addressed by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, before the unveiling of the memorial by Sir David Prain who had succeeded Sir Joseph at Kew; tea was served afterwards in the Church Rooms. The catering was put in the hands of the, "...lady members of our Church Council.", and who were reminded that, "...any 'Sticky or Sudden Death pastries'..." were not required!

Gerrard initially proposed a bronze panel mounted on mahogany. However, the plain, but elegant, stone tablet, with a decorative ornamental border in art deco style, shows a stylized bird and simple flowers and plants around the inscription:

*This tablet records the association with Halesworth of Sir William Hooker and of his son, Sir Joseph, who in succession became Directors of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Sir William lived in Halesworth from 1809 to 1820 and here Sir Joseph was born in 1817. Erected 1930.*

Jenny Janes

### St Mary's, Halesworth Receipts Summary - December 2020

Collections	£223.00
Planned Giving	£900.00
Gift Aid	£119.00
Fees	£60.00
HUE	£5452.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£6754.00</u></b>



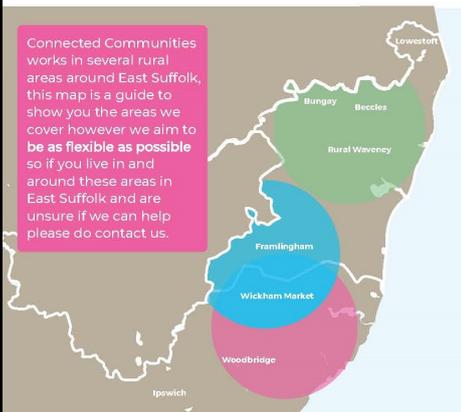
**A SELECTION OF SERVICE & PRAYER BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk)**

<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>EUCHARIST of the EPIPHANY SEASON</b> Covid-19 adapted</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry Worship in Church <b>2020 EUCHARIST in ORDINARY TIME</b></p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>An Order for Spiritual Communion</b></p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry Prayers to use at home as part of <b>Spiritual Communion</b></p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Daily Examen</b> A reflective way of prayer</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>An Order for Morning Worship</b></p>
<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Daytime Prayer</b> for use at midday or mid-afternoon</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Private Prayer at home</b> In the evening</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry Prayers for Evening from the Book of Common Prayer</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>An Office for Evening or Night Prayer</b></p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Personal Prayer</b> from the words of Jesus: Morning</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Private Prayer at home</b> In the Morning</p>
<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Some thoughts on the Lord's Prayer</b> by Rev'd M Walkey</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>Personal Prayer</b> from the lips of Jesus: Evening</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry Prayers for Daytime from the Book of Common Prayer</p>	<p>The Blyth Valley Team Ministry <b>On Prayer</b> by Rev'd M Walkey</p>		

**Who is it for?**

Connected Communities is a free confidential service available to everyone over the age of 65+ who live in the following areas:

- Wickham Market, Framlingham and surrounding areas.
- Rural communities within the Waveney area
- Woodbridge and the Deben area



**How do I access the service?**

It's simple, just call us on 01473 835477 or email [connectedcommunities@suffolkfamilycarers.org](mailto:connectedcommunities@suffolkfamilycarers.org)

Or visit [www.suffolkfamilycarers.org](http://www.suffolkfamilycarers.org)



If you are over 65, feeling low, isolated or concerned about practical life issue then Connected Communities can help.



"Your journey to wellbeing starts here"



# The HALESWORTH BOOKSHOP

The Halesworth Bookshop would like to thank their many customers who so generously supported the 'Christmas Act of Kindness' in December.

Thanks to your generosity 50+ books were wrapped and given to The Volunteer Centre/Community Larder and the Foodbank to be distributed to local families and individuals in need of a little extra cheer at Christmas. Also thanking all the volunteers who made this happen.

It was really nice to be part of local giving, and we plan to keep it local again next year. Abbie, owner of the Halesworth Bookshop, is pictured below packing the books for distribution.



## New for 2021

As I'm sure you are all aware The Halesworth Bookshop works closely with local schools. They order and personally deliver books at the best price they can and also support

On Radio 4 there is a programme called "Open Country". The other day it was all about snowdrops and the people who admire and collect them. Galanthophiles study and record all the different types as well as collecting them.

It reminded me of my father and his obsession of going to see the snowdrops every year as soon as the first ones started to come into bloom.

Symbol of hope. We certainly need hope more than ever this year – and there it is.

**Diana Gardiner**

many school events – the highlight for Abbie being the annual Book Mastermind when youngsters demonstrate their knowledge of books and show that books have not lost their appeal.

Due to budget restraints schools often ask if there is any way the Halesworth Bookshop can help with giving books as gifts to children at Christmas, in 2020 four schools requested help over and above the normal discount, but unfortunately with the pandemic and poor trading year, this had to be refused, which was a great disappointment.

As books and children should go "hand in hand" Halesworth Bookshop is launching a Schools Fund which will collect donations throughout the year which can then be used in December to help local schools with purchasing books as gifts.

Halesworth Bookshop customers are renowned for their love of reading and also their generosity in helping others, as shown by the successful Christmas "Gift of Kindness" scheme over the last two years. Customers can add to the Schools Fund by opting to give a 50p donation on any transaction in the shop. Hopefully these small, voluntary amounts from many will add up through the year enabling the Bookshop to support local schools at Christmas 2021.

## During the Current Lockdown

Abbie will be in the shop for 'Click&Collect' Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am - 2pm.

Through their wholesaler, they can also offer orders direct to your door (small P&P charge).

If you are local, Abbie is happy to deliver. Most days covering Bramfield, Halesworth, Holton, Blyford, Wenhaston, Walpole, Heveningham, Cratfield, Ubbeston and Laxfield.

We hope you are all enjoying much more time for READING.

Take Care, Stay Safe and Be Well.

**Halesworth Bookshop. Tel: 01986873840. Mobile: 07887427602. Email: halesworthbookshop@gmail.com**  
**Website:- [www.thehalesworthbookshop.co.uk](http://www.thehalesworthbookshop.co.uk)**

## MEMORIES AND STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH

**By James W Newby. Compiled by Derek Newby**

Covering over 130 years of one man's records of life in Halesworth.

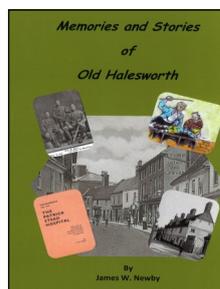
**Priced at £6.99**

**Available from Halesworth Bookshop,  
St Mary's Church, Halesworth  
Museum**

**and Heathside Stores Wenhaston**

**Proceeds from the sale of this book  
will be donated to**

**St Mary's Regeneration Fund**



	books cards refreshments	<b>Telephone:</b> <b>07770 465 785</b>
--	--------------------------------	---

## What I'm reading during lockdown (again!)

Luckily, I am still going through my massive book sortation: with charity shops and book sales closed for most of the past year there have been few opportunities to pass books on, so here they still are, enjoying a re-read, well that's my excuse!

I've been re-reading some old favourites, among them: *The Last Battle* by C S Lewis, the last in his *Narnia* series.

I expect many of you could do the same, somewhere there'll be the treasured set saved to share with your children or grandchildren.



Lewis was remarkably prescient with this book - or just a man steeped in scripture, informing his imagination! Jennifer Flanders, who is American, has also just re-read this book and I couldn't put it better myself when she explains "I'm seeing a lot of modern-day parallels in this classic story: The children who loved Narnia found themselves fighting against cruel lies, wicked deceit, self-serving betrayal, and

false Christs -- yet through it all, they remained confident that Aslan was still on his throne: good, faithful, and never-changing. Although it pained them to see the blessed land of Narnia divided and destroyed, that grief did not overshadow the joyful hope that awaited them in Aslan's country"

As I search through one of my bibles or flick through a once/much-loved book I often come across a card or piece of paper previously used as a bookmark on which I'd noted down something significant at the time; thus I came across these opening lines from Francis Thompson's (1850-1907) poem *The Hound of Heaven*.

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
 I fled Him down the arches of the years;  
 I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways  
 Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears  
 I hid from Him.

The whole poem is about 180 difficult lines long so no room for it here. Both Tolkien and Chesterton thought it a remarkable poem, and it was once much analysed and critiqued. I have no idea where or when I came across it originally but it made a big enough impression on me at the time to copy down these lines. I thought again how true, how I, we, so often fight against God's claims on us.

Another author, John O'Coner (1912) gives a noteworthy description of the poem:

"As the hound follows the hare, never ceasing in its running, ever drawing nearer in the chase, with unhurrying and unperturbed pace, so does God follow the fleeing soul by His Divine grace. And though in sin or in human love, away from God it seeks to hide itself, Divine grace follows after, unwearingly follows ever after, till the soul feels its pressure forcing it to turn to Him alone in that never-ending pursuit."

And the poet does fall gratefully into God's hands at the end (I looked it up) – may this be true for all of us.

*Val Jennings*

For Sign of the Fish

### BVTM EMAIL ADDRESSES

**BLYTH VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY OFFICE:**

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

**BLYTH VALLEY TEAM TREASURER:**

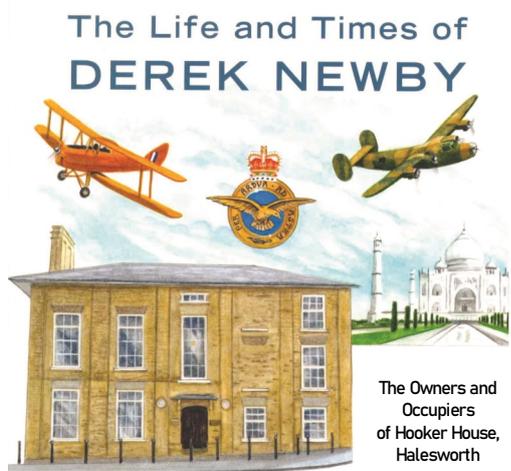
[treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com)

**BLYTH VALLEY TIMES:**

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

**Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am - 1pm.**

**Tel 01986 875941 or 07752 275328**

Copies available from <b>Halesworth Bookshop</b>	<h3>The Life and Times of DEREK NEWBY</h3> 	The Owners and Occupiers of Hooker House, Halesworth
	The Origin of Halesworth Playing Fields Association now renamed Halesworth Community Sport and Leisure	

# Community Larder

## St Mary's Church Hall, Halesworth

People are asking whether the Foodbank and the Community Larder are the same thing. They are not, but they are complementary and work closely together. The Foodbank is run by Waveney Foodbank and works from St Mary's Church, Halesworth once a week. They issue ready packed and sealed boxes of dry goods - (within a set range of contents to help reasonable nutritional quality) enough to support three day's worth of meals, per eligible person a week. To get a Foodbank box you need to fit criteria, apply, and be given a voucher to access your food. Vouchers can be obtained from HVC as well as from the Foodbank itself. The collection point at the Co-op and at the Church are both for foodbank donations.

The Community Larder is an open access service three mornings a week. It is a joint project run by the Blyth Valley Team and Halesworth Volunteer Centre, supported by the Town, District and County Councils. All are welcome, no questions, no eligibility criteria. It has dry goods, fresh food, fruit and vegetables, dairy produce, bread etc and household and hygiene products. Fareshare give a double pallet of surplus supermarket goods monthly, and the Co-op donate

surplus bread and cakes three times a week. Melons donate potatoes and onions and gives fruit at a reduced cost. Morrisons provide big donations regularly, and Spar helps as often as they can. So does Peasenhall General Store and Laxfield Co-op. The hygiene bank also supply personal hygiene items regularly to the Larder.

It works on a give and take basis. You can bring stuff to donate, bring stuff to donate and take other stuff away, take stuff and make a cash donation for it or just take stuff. Everyone can choose what they want. All the cash donations go straight back into buying stuff we need/ are short of. Foodbank users sometimes bring things from their boxes they would not eat and exchange them for things they would, plus for fresh food to supplement their meals - so for example they can take some onions and mince to go with the bolognese sauce in their food-box. That helps very vulnerable folk get a balanced diet. Lots of people bake, make jam or chutney or donate surplus vegetables and fruit in season and of course the wonderful community around us help hugely and are very generous.

The Community Larder also makes up a bag of fresh stuff and treats each week to go out with the foodboxes - which also helps extend the impact of the Foodbank. Also if the Foodbank warehouse is very short of something they can ask the community larder to give them that thing (if they have it).

If you are healthy, not shielding or living with anyone vulnerable and have three to six hours a month to spare, you might like to volunteer at the Larder. Let Revd Jane know if you would like to volunteer.

If people are not going out and would like to help by donating some money, the bank details are:

### Waveney Foodbank:

Lloyds Bank, sort code: 77-66-12

Account no. 22139560 Waveney Foodbank.

### The Community Larder

Barclays Bank sort code: 20-92-08

Account Halesworth Volunteer Centre

Account no. 70790362.

Ref: community larder



**HALESWORTH**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**LARDER** PROJECT  
**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL**  
 Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY  
**Mondays, Wednesdays and**  
**Saturdays 10.30-11.30am**

Come along and you can:

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

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

**PLENTY OF FOOD TO SHARE**

## Message from Matthew Scade, Waveney Foodbank

At the time of writing, we have about five days supply of the following items left in stock: sugar/honey, UHT milk, fruit juice and rice pudding. We know people aren't going shopping as often or are shopping online, and this has left us with a critical shortfall in donations of some items. If you can help, please do.

**Matthew Scade, Project Manager**  
**Waveney Foodbank**  
**07484 394749**

**Registered address: Unit 9b Brome Industrial Estate, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7HN**

**Registered charity number 1151679**

**Our bank details for donations: Sort code: 77-66-12. (Lloyds Diss). Account Number: 22139560**



If you need help from Waveney Foodbank you will need a referral voucher.

**Just call one of our partner agencies:**

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

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

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

**WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP  
 MORE NOW THAN EVER BEFORE**

**OUR STOCKS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS  
 ARE CRITICALLY LOW**

PLEASE CAN YOU DONATE ONE OR MORE OF THESE ITEMS...

UHT MILK  
 FRUIT JUICE  
 RICE PUDDING  
 SUGAR OR HONEY



Registered charity number 1161579 registered in England and Wales

## FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

During Lockdown, please do not make unnecessary journeys, stay at home and stay safe, but for future reference, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm, donations for the Foodbank can be left at Woolnough's Funeral Service's office at the entrance to Halesworth Cemetery on Holton Road and also at Rosedale Funeral Services in the Market Place, Halesworth.

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

### 2021 WAVENEY FOODBANK OPENING TIMES

#### VISITING A FOODBANK IS AN ESSENTIAL JOURNEY

Hope Church, Vincas Road, Diss IP22 4HG. Mon - Fri 10.30am to 11.30am

St Luke's Church, 61 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JQ. Fri 2pm to 3pm

Beccles Baptist Church, Station Rd, Beccles NR34 9QQ. Wed 10.30am to 11.30am

St Mary's Church, Steeple End, Halesworth IP19 8LL. Wed 10.30am to 11.30am

Community Centre, 50 Upper Olland St, Bungay NR35 1BH. Tues 10am to 11am and Fri 1pm to 2pm

St Mary's Church, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, NR15 2RL. Fri 12.30pm to 2.30pm

St. John's Church, Broad St, Harleston IP20 9AZ. Tues 2pm to 2.45pm and Fri 3pm to 3.45pm

Hungate Church, Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TT. Fri 10.30am to 11.30am

For other areas, call the following numbers and leave a message.

Porringland area: call 07707 790680

Framlingham area: call 07388 791126

Stradbroke area: call 01379 388493

#### YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE A REFERRAL VOUCHER YOU CAN OBTAIN A VOUCHER FROM ...

Diss and Thetford CAB 0800 144 8848

South Norfolk Council Help Hub 01508 533933

Saffron Housing 01508 532000

Halesworth Volunteer Centre 01986 874290

CAB National Helpline 0808 208 2138

Solo Housing 01379 640250

Sanctuary Housing 01379 641244

Broadland District Council 01603 431133

East Suffolk CAB 01502 518510 / 717715

You can also obtain a voucher by visiting any of the centres above

Email: [info@waveney.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@waveney.foodbank.org.uk)

Web: [waveney.foodbank.org.uk](http://waveney.foodbank.org.uk)

Tel: 07484 394749



Registered charity number 1151979 registered in England and Wales

## ONLINE DONATION SERVICE

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

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

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Andrew's Church</b> <b>Bramfield</b></p> <p><a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/c3cd24b5-118f-46da-8612-e9a4079e16a3">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/c3cd24b5-118f-46da-8612-e9a4079e16a3</a></p>	
--	--	---

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Michael &amp; All Angels</b> <b>Cookley</b></p> <p><a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/17111223-35da-4b01-90f4-bc8bcdc16dbb">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/17111223-35da-4b01-90f4-bc8bcdc16dbb</a></p>	
--	---	---

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Mary's Church</b> <b>Halesworth</b></p> <p><a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a0b8d74b-52a5-4c09-a4b4-0f3776c058eb">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a0b8d74b-52a5-4c09-a4b4-0f3776c058eb</a></p>	
---	---	--

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Peter's Church</b> <b>Spexhall</b></p> <p><a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/24d90c56-a22f-48e0-8c50-de6367de2060">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/24d90c56-a22f-48e0-8c50-de6367de2060</a></p>	
--	--	---

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Peter's Church</b> <b>Wenhaston</b></p> <p><a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b4ca0cea-e17d-4c02-a4e4-dcec179eaa65">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b4ca0cea-e17d-4c02-a4e4-dcec179eaa65</a></p>	
--	---	---

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blyth Valley Team Ministry</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your donation goes towards the work of the BVTM across the Team</p> <p><a href="https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9411ba23-4707-424c-8970-519dee43688d">https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9411ba23-4707-424c-8970-519dee43688d</a></p>	
--	--	---

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A DONATION TO YOUR CHURCH BY SCANNING THE QR CODES DISPLAYED ON POSTERS IN YOUR CHURCH (WHEN THEY RE-OPEN).

TO MAKE A DONATION, SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE USING YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.

£££££

## Money stuff!

£££££

Put bluntly we are broke!!! We know it is tough for everyone and money is in very short supply but we fell short on paying our "Diocesan Share" (which is the amount the 14 churches between them have to pay to the Diocese for the support they provide, and for the clergy salaries each year) by £28,000. That's about 20% of the total (although the Team Treasurer will probably say my maths are wrong). Most of our churches have been unable to hold any fundraising events this year and we are over-reliant on raising money through one-off events. So we are doing three things:

- Sharing really successful ideas about how to hold fundraisers during lockdown like the hugely successful fundraising efforts at Chediston.
- Installing lots of electronic "buttons" on our websites and church pages to allow people to donate immediately – there is one you could try on the front page of the website – any little gift is VERY welcome. We are also putting card readers in some churches meaning no cash is needed, and anyone can just "tap their card" to donate.

- Asking people to set up a regular gift via the parish giving scheme – rather than standing orders or collection envelopes. The scheme is really helpful as it automatically refunds gift aid to us straight away (no admin no waiting) and if the donor agrees it updates the amount the donor gives by inflation each year – it gives us steady monthly income to rely on too. At Spexhall for example direct giving through the Parish Giving Scheme means even though it's a tiny church it can pay its way 100%.

It would be lovely if you on reading this can consider (if you do not already donate regularly) a one-off donation or a regular one. Contact your local churchwarden or talk to Jane or Alison about how to do it.

Please see page 30 for details of our churches which have already registered for the "give a little" scheme together with their individual "QR" codes and links to make a payment.

Rev'd Jane Held



## Christmas Surprise!

The HdCF Committee surprised our dementia carer families with a Christmas Hamper, containing various cakes, crisps, sweets and chocolates, biscuits, mince pies, a chocolate log and crackers to pull, each hamper had a Christmas card and decoration and was wrapped in cellophane and topped with a big red bow.

One of our 'Friends of HdCF', who herself is a carer, wanted to donate some goodies for Carers who were unable to get out much at this time of lockdown, a kind and thoughtful gesture at Christmastime. HdCF were very pleased to accept her kind donations and added more to enable the 27 families who are receiving our respite care to have a Hamper

delivered by our Chair, Teresa Fyfe in Christmas week. We have received some very nice 'thank you's' and it is very nice for HdCF to know that the gift of the hamper pleased our carers and let them know they were being thought about.

We have continued with our Respite Care Service during the lockdown period to help Carers have a break which is needed more than ever during the stay at home situation. HdCF have been able to do this with the wonderful support and care from First Choice Care & Prestige Nursing + Care Agencies for which we are very grateful and say a big thank you.

John Wood



Shopping • Prescriptions • Transport to medical appointments • Social support

# Our communities need you!

Would you like to help someone during challenging time?

Help with shopping, be a friendly voice at the end of the phone?



Please ring Halesworth Volunteer Centre on **01986 875600**. Email: **covid@halesworthvc.co.uk**

We are working with local town and parish councils, community groups, businesses and the statutory services to create a co-ordinated response to Covid-19. Part of Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils' Emergency Response Plan.

Shopping • Prescriptions • Transport to medical appointments • Social support

# Covid-19 Help when you need it most.

Are you self-isolating and need a bit of help? **We can get you practical support.**

Confused by all the media messages? **We can direct you to trusted information about the virus.**

Feeling a little lonely? **We can find you somebody to talk to on the phone.**

Community groups, local charities and businesses in Halesworth and all the surrounding villages are working together to support you during this pandemic. **Whatever the support you need, we are here to help.**

Contact Halesworth Volunteer Centre on **01986 875600**  
Email: **covid@halesworthvc.co.uk**

For trusted information about Covid-19 and the latest government guidance, visit <https://halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk/>

**We are  
available  
24/7**