



# Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

July 2023

Volume 44

Issue 7

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(where sold)

## From the Ringing Chamber



Our photograph shows Halesworth's Bell Tower Captain Philip Gorrod (*left*), with Trevor Hughes and the *Trevor Hughes Trophy*, won by the Halesworth team at the District Striking Competition at Metfield.

The previous trophy, a rather dull shield, had filled to capacity with winners' plaques, and it was handed to the Halesworth team on a permanent basis because they had won it more times than anyone else (eight times in 21 years).

Once the new trophy comes back from the engravers, a trophy cabinet to keep them both in, will be required in the ringing chamber at St Mary's Halesworth!

Philip commented "To be honest, we didn't ring quite as well as we did last year when we only came second, but it was good enough to win this year, and by a large margin, too."

*You can read more news from the Ringing Chamber on page 13 of this issue.*

**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 (£30 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 - Cookley - Halesworth - Heveningham with Ubbeston - Holton - Huntingfield - Linstead - Spexhall - Thorington - Walpole - Wenhaston - Wissett.***

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

### JULY 2023 LECTIONARY

These selections are for Holy Communion (Common Worship) continuous. Epistle and Gospel for Traditional Communion (Book of Common Prayer) may be found in the book itself. These and others may be found at <https://almanac.oremus.org/> or in printed copies of the Revised Common Lectionary.

#### Sunday 2nd – Fourth After Trinity (Green)

Genesis 22: 1 – 14 (NRSV)

Matthew 10: 40 – end (NRSV)

#### Sunday 9th – Fifth After (Green)

Genesis 24: 34 – 38, 42 – 49 and 58 – end (NRSV)

Matthew 11: 16 – 19 and 25 – end (NRSV)

#### Sunday 16th – Sixth After (Green)

Genesis 25: 19 – end (NRSV)

Matthew 13: 1 – 9 and 18 – 23 (NRSV)

#### Sunday 23rd – Seventh After (Green)

Genesis 28: 10 – 19 (NRSV)

Matthew 13: 24 – 30 and 36 – 43 (NRSV)

#### Sunday 30th – Eighth After (Green)

Genesis 29: 15 – 28 (NRSV)

Matthew 13: 31 – 33 and 44 – 52 (NRSV)

### BLYTH VALLEY TEAM COUNCIL

The next BVTM TEAM COUNCIL meeting  
will be held on

**WEDNESDAY 5th JULY**

**in St Peter's Room, St Peter's Church,  
Holton at 7.30pm**

*Please could Parishes try to ensure that they have  
a representative attend the meeting.*

### BVTimes Renewals 2023-24

Many thanks to those subscribers who have paid and renewed their **BVTimes** delivery request.

If you haven't yet paid for the renewal, but would like to have a copy of **BVTimes** home delivered, please could you give the £12 cash/cheque payment to your local **BVTimes** distributor as soon as possible; alternatively please drop payment into the Team office in St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

If you prefer, you can pay direct into the **BVTimes** bank account. Please let the **BVTimes** office (01986 875941) or your local distributor know if you wish to pay online, and please add the ref: "**Sub**" together with the **name of your parish**.

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## LIFE EVENTS



FROM THE REGISTERS IN JUNE

### FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Jacqueline Moulson at St Peter's Holton

### WEDDINGS

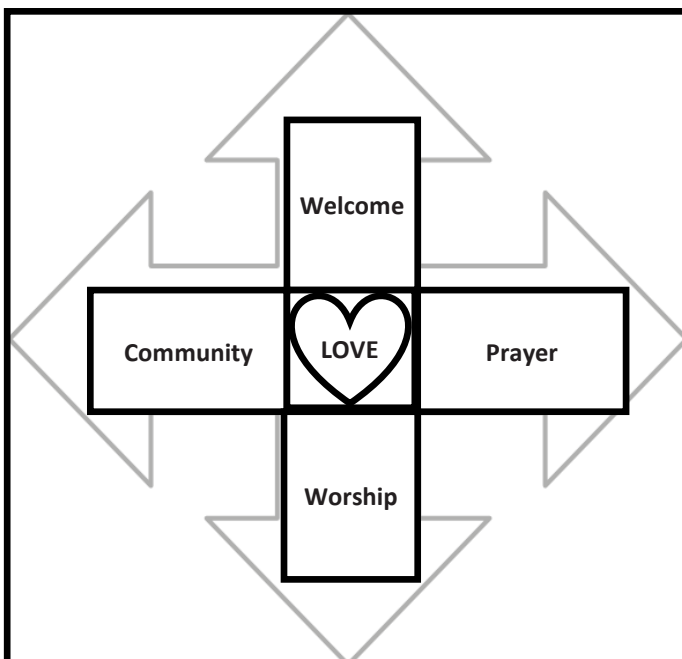
Marcus Tibble and Rachel Barnard at Spexhall

Robert Upton and Emily Hart at Bramfield

Frederick Village and Bryony Ball at Spexhall

Edward Kiddy and Eve Harrison at Wissett

Andrew Clarke and Lois Crompton at Wissett



## Worship in the Blyth Valley in July 2023

CW – Year A	2nd Green	9th Green	16th Green	23rd Green	30th Green
Halesworth St Mary*	8am Traditional Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic
	10am TEAM Holy Communion Dominic	10am Traditional Communion Linda	10am Holy Communion David	10am Iona Worship Jason	
	6pm Evensong Dominic		6pm Evensong Dominic	6pm Evensong Dominic	6pm Evensong Dominic
St Peter Group					
Holton St Peter		10am Holy Communion David	10am Iona Worship, with Baptism Gini	6pm Songs of Praise Linda	
Wenhaston St Peter		10am Morning prayer service with Methodists Diana	10am Holy Communion Linda	10am Pause for Thought Alison C	
Bramfield St Andrew*					
Blyford All Saints					10am TEAM Holy Communion Dominic
Thorington St Peter				10am Holy Communion Alison	
St Andrew Group					
Wisett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Alison C	10am Holy Communion Vic	10am Breakfast Church Gini	
Chediston St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Veronica	
Spexhall St Peter			10am Morning Prayer Keith		
Linstead St Margaret			12.30pm Patronal Service Dominic	10am Holy Communion Bill	
St Michael Group					
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic		
Heveningham St Margaret		6pm TEAM Choral Evensong Dominic			
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Dominic	
Walpole St Mary				10am Holy Communion Vic	

### \*Additional Regular Services

Daily: 8am Morning Prayer and 6pm Evening Prayer in St Mary's Church Halesworth and on Facebook.

Tuesday 10am Weekly Café Church on Zoom.

Wednesday 10am Weekly Holy Communion in St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

Thursday 9.30am Weekly Morning Prayer in St Andrew's Church, Bramfield.

Compline on Facebook: 9.30pm Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Search: blythvalleychurchessuffolk)

**Community services:** Beech House monthly. Highfield. Two per month.

**Home groups** Mondays led by Revd David Sochon; Wednesdays led by Linda Berry.

## Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

*(unless stated otherwise)*

July 2nd Thelma Waller

July 9th United Service @ St Peter's  
Wenhaston, 10am

July 16th The Revd Iain McKillop

July 23rd The Revd Pam Bayliss

July 30th David Bulkley (Gideons)

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

## St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,  
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

*Please enquire about our Service times and details*



## Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,

from Tuesdays to Saturdays

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

On Mondays with the Revd Gini Williams

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092

Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304

Passcode - 825686

## Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

Gathered worship

### SERVICES IN JULY

Sunday 2nd Gathered worship incl Communion

Friday 7th 9.30am & 10am Prayer Meeting (in  
church). 10.30am Coffee Morning

Sunday 9th 11am Gathered worship

Friday 14th 9.30am & 10 am Prayer Meeting (in  
church). 10.30am Coffee Morning

Sunday 16th 11am Gathered worship

Tuesday 18th 2.30pm Elders' Meeting in the  
school room

Friday 21st 9.30am & 10am Prayer Meeting (in  
church). 10.30am Coffee Morning

Sunday 23rd 11am Gathered worship

Friday 28th 9.30am & 10am Prayer Meeting (in  
church). 10.30am Coffee Morning

Sunday 30th 11am Gathered worship

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761

jon@sermons.me.uk

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Jo Moreira (for families and children)

jomohurc@gmail.com



## Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

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

or

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



## From the Rector...

The Sundays in July are simply named as their ranked order after Trinity Sunday. That was the last special Sunday for some while. Liturgically, it is a time of year called 'ordinary time'. The word carries the meaning 'ranked order' in this context. However, in common parlance, ordinary tends to suggest the mundane and common place.

Most of us have times in our lives when we feel nothing very much is happening. We are just working nine to five (what a way to make a living), or once again waking up trying to remember what day it is, waiting for our carer, and falling asleep again. A Facebook memory or tune on the wireless, may remind us of some significant event. Whether it was a happy or sad occasion, we may mull our reactions over in our mind. We may try and number the days since or name the people present or those died or born since.

From a church community point of view, it remains common to look back to life before the current vicar or life before Covid. A word perhaps somewhat over used during the pandemic period was 'unprecedented'. Yet, for many of us and our church communities our experiences were just that. What was particularly unusual for churches was to find so many people's circumstances changing simultaneously. Normally, one or two people leave or join faith groups every so often at times of change. These may be new jobs, new accommodation, new schools, new physical situations, new relationship contexts or as for John Wesley: a religious experience. Over Covid significant quantities of people moved, died, or changed their attendance or giving habits. So, some of the few remaining members of a number of our congregations ruefully count the Sundays since the pews and coffers were a good deal fuller than they are now.

This puts me in mind of the writings of the Torah or the Law, the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. After Genesis, they are all about inspiring a people of hope in an ordinary time of mundane ordinariness after emancipation from slavery or restoration from exile. God's people complain. The situation gets worse. God's people moan. Only or two, of twelve, people sent to scout the future landscape of God's intention came back positive about its likely fulfilment. They wandered more. Most died in the wilderness. Yet their shoes didn't wear out. They were fed. They had some remarkable collective religious experiences. I suspect many of the weary wanderers counted the Sabbaths since they knew a warm bed, a warm heart and a warm meal.

So the Sundays may resonate with the ordinariness in our lives, individual and collective, however there are some significant feast days dotted through the month. These like families enjoying school holidays or couples getting married dot the monotonous sky like shooting stars. Like the faithful spies Caleb and Joshua they inspire us to view our circumstances with a glass half-full rather than glass half-

empty mentality. Thomas (3rd) known as doubting for quite sensibly needing more information before hanging up his brain and accepting others' stories in blind faith. Though he said he recognised Jesus as 'The Way' 'My Lord and my God' taking that message as far as India according to some traditions. Mary (22nd), was a woman used to being excluded, used and abused with a head full of chaos and internal voices. She then met a man who loved her in a way she had never been loved before, a rabbi who talked with her as an equal. Anne and Joachim (26th) Jesus' maternal grandparents. Wilberforce (30th) whose tireless work led to the abolition of state support for slavery, encourages our work to eradicate modern day slavery in homes, farms and brothels in our villages and towns today. Ignatius (31st) whose spiritual exercises such as *Lectio Divina*, *Examen* and *Visualisation* still inspire today.

The annual Christian *Greenbelt* festival once had the theme 'Heaven in Ordinary'. In this interminable season of counting the days since whenever or whatever, or counting the number of people we don't see on Sunday, may I encourage us to count our blessings one by one. May Elisha pray for us as he did his servant Gehazi, that our eyes may be opened to the great cloud of witnesses that surround us. Be encouraged that as we abide in God, God abides in us. Be reminded of those parables like the lost sheep, the widow's mite and the labourers in the vineyard. These are the Bible's version of beware of lies, damn lies and statistics or not everything that counts can be counted. Further Jesus said: 'Where two or three are gathered there I am also' – and that doesn't have to be on a Sunday. Have a flick though this volume and you'll be surprised at just how much unprecedented heaven there is in what God is doing through us ordinary people in this ordinary time.

**Dominic**

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# What has your Team Vicar been up to?



It's been over a year since I arrived and what a year it has been. Lots of fun getting to know Halesworth and the surrounding villages, people and places, quirks and traditions. Of course there is so much more to learn and I'm not the best with names – apologies to anyone I might

have offended. In particular, I struggle with Richards and Rogers, Jackies and Janets, Pollys and Pennys... you get the picture. Please bear with me.

As Team Vicar, I spend most of my time outside church, joining forces with organisations around the area from schools to businesses to voluntary groups and individuals to see how we can work together to serve our communities spiritually, mentally and physically. I have been delighted to participate in local groups from Halesworth Events Management to Youth Action Halesworth and more.

There have been important events including the late Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee, followed all too quickly by her funeral. And then, of course, we had the Coronation enjoyed by livestream in St Mary's on the Saturday and celebrated across the 15 villages in our Blyth Valley Benefice.

The Christmas switch-on went so well and we were delighted to have lots going on in St Mary's Church and so many people passing through. Santa needed some help getting enough presents to go round, but happily miracles do happen and there were enough in the end. We are looking forward to when Santa returns this year on November 18th.

And now it's the time for Flower Festivals and fêtes and so much more. Lady Maisery, a fabulous folk trio, are coming to perform at St Mary's on Saturday 15th July, thanks to sponsorship provided by Halesworth Arts Festival and there will be a Climate Action Conference from September 29th to October 1st, run in partnership with the Town Council.

Welcome Wednesdays at St Mary's Church has something for everyone. Every week we have Holy Communion at 10am, Coffee Time at 10.30am and Tots' Time from 2pm-3pm, a Recital every second Wednesday of the month and a Community Lunch every last Wednesday at 12.30pm, which we run with Halesworth Volunteers. We aim to be as hospitable as possible and everyone is welcome.

There is so much more to say and I am looking forward to giving you a short update every month.

Until next month!

Yours with blessings

Revd Gini

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Written sometime around 1590, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is considered to be Shakespeare's first play for the stage and makes its Circle 67 debut on our Shorter Shakespeare Summer Tour.

We are touring from July 18th to 23rd to some great local venues (please see our advertisement on page 29 for details), so join us in your favourite castle, meadow or pub garden for one hour of entertainment packed with passion, fun, music and Crab the dog!

Entrance is free and we provide basic seating. If you enjoy the show, please give generously when the hat is passed round at the end.

As our name implies, Circle 67 was founded in 1967 to bring high-quality drama to the local area. We always welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining us, or simply want details of forthcoming productions, please contact us: [info@circle67co.uk](mailto:info@circle67co.uk)

or have a look at our website: [www.circle67.co.uk](http://www.circle67.co.uk)



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## REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT HALESWORTH LIBRARY

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

**Family Fun** - Are you looking for something to do with the children at the weekend? Look no further than our **Children's activities on Saturdays 10am – 4pm** and **Family Fun Time on Sundays from 11am – 12.30pm**. All are welcome to drop in for board games, craft activities and Lego.

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

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

**Citizens Advice East Suffolk** offer free drop-in advice sessions on first and third Tuesday mornings in the library office. The next sessions are on **from 10am - 12pm** – come along and take advantage of their free advice and support during these difficult times.

**East Suffolk Council drop-in for digital advice, Tuesdays 10am – 4pm** – drop in for help with online Council services, energy bills, benefit applications etc ...

**Barclays Bank Drop-in** - Weekly drop-in session from **9.30am – 4.30pm every Wednesday** where they offer help with money management, financial help, business support and home loans.

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

**Further details of all our activities are available from the library**

Email us at [Halesworth.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:Halesworth.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk)

or phone us on 01986 875095.

We look forward to seeing you!

**'100 CLUB'** – The Friends of Halesworth library run a '100 Club' to raise funds for the library. Each number costs £1 – so only £12 for the year! To join please ask for details at the library.

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

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

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

for Service details and local events etc



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

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





## HALESWORTH DEMENTIA CARERS' FUND

### Epic Cycle ride for Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund

Two brave cyclists, Giles Scoble (son-in-law of our Patron Paddy Cox) and his friend Simon will be undertaking a coast to coast cycle ride to raise funds for the Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund and Pancreatic Cancer Action. Their aim is to leave St David's, on the far west coast of Wales, and cycle across to Ness Point in Lowestoft, a ride of over 400 miles. To make things even harder they will be totally self-supporting, with no back-up vehicles or mechanics. This remarkable journey will begin on Wednesday 19th July. They will travel approximately 100 miles each day, arriving in Halesworth on Sunday 23rd. They will then leave Halesworth at 9am on Monday for the final 25 mile ride to Ness Point. It would so good if we can have people out to greet them in Halesworth and at their journeys end in Lowestoft

If you would like to support these heroic riders please visit the Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund Facebook page where they have set up a Just Giving Page.

### 10th Anniversary Party

This was a wonderful event, marking 10 great years for HdCF. After our May film, our Chair, Teresa Fyfe cut the birthday cake to mark the occasion, and £300 was raised at the event. Over the years, the Fund has raised so much, and provided many hours of respite care. All this would not have been possible were it not for the outstanding generosity of so many people, businesses and organisations that have helped us. Thank you, each and every one who support us.

### 100+ Club draw

The winning numbers in May were 62, 24, and 23. If you would like to join the 100+ club please call Anna on 07721 842802.

### July Film

Our next film will be on Wednesday 19th July at The Cut, Halesworth. We shall be showing *A Man called Otto*. As usual, doors open at 1.45pm, and admission is by £5 donation.

For further information about our work please contact us via [info@halesworthdementia.co.uk](mailto:info@halesworthdementia.co.uk) **John Wood**

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## Heritage Open Day: Heads Up for Saturday 16th September!

Do make sure the date is in the diary for a fascinating day in and around Halesworth with this year's national Heritage Open Days theme of *Creativity Unwrapped!*

The Friends of St Mary's will be hosting a day of events in the church, with light refreshments available.

Come and enjoy displays of photographs by Halesworth Camera Club, Beccles Camera Club and examination and course work by pupils of Bungay High School; Art from Artbox and Mencap; Lark Images – photography and handmade books inspired by nature.

The Halesworth Repair Café in Action: bring your general electrical items, sewing machines for repair, and knives for grinding while you wait!

From *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll to *Alice Through the Pillar Box* by Gerald King, local artist, writer and philatelist.

Exhibition of English Royal Heraldry for Coronation year.

Bell-ringing display and opportunity to explore becoming a bell-ringer. Church tours, Hand-bell Ringers performance and workshop and a talk by the church architect, Alan Greening, on The Regeneration of St Mary's, a short talk on the effects of the ingress of rainwater on the fabric of the building.

## Royal British Legion - Halesworth Poppy Appeal 2023

Preparations are underway for Poppy Appeal 2023.

I currently have a vacancy for a Poppy Appeal Organiser, Joint Poppy Appeal Organiser and Deputy to co-ordinate the Poppy Appeal in Halesworth; creating a team approach.

They will need to carry out some administration, prepare the pots and poppy trays, develop a team of volunteers that would either deliver and collect the pots and boxes, help to collect at the local Co-op store, be able to count and bank the donations, after the appeal. Without a few volunteers co-ordinating the Poppy Appeal, Halesworth will not be able to support our Armed Forces Community.

Please contact me if you are able to assist:

Tel 07823 416748

Email: [MCox-Osborne@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:MCox-Osborne@britishlegion.org.uk)

**Mandi Cox-Osborne**  
**Suffolk Community Fundraiser**  
**for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**



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

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

### - A little bit of history: Monuments of all shapes and sizes - Part 10

The final part of this exploration of the many monuments in our parish church opens with a fine interior feature of St Mary's, the vestry arch over the door leading from the chancel to the vestry. A traceried arch, above which is a label flanked by two angels with a carved Latin inscription which was originally filled in with pitch forming the black lettering, this translates to "Pray for the souls of Thomas Clement and Margaret his consort who caused this vestry to be made."

Thomas Clement died in 1438 and made his will in September of the same year. The Rector, Walter Annable, was a witness, and his wife, Margaret, was the first of his five executors. Thomas requested burial in the churchyard and gave twenty shillings for church repairs, although no mention is made of the vestry.

Note the large beast head at the top of the arch, and the inscription, flanked by two angels holding shields, in black lettering; it ran out of space and the last two letters are on the shield of the right-hand angel. The renaissance style of the angel suggests the benefactor had modern and urbane taste. Head stops on the arch perhaps represent Thomas and Margaret. The four petal motif around this and other archways in the church are thought to represent a rose and may once have been painted red, signifying either the Virgin Mary or the Royal House of Lancaster, or perhaps both.

Thomas Clement was an executor for the will of William Argentein, and we conclude this look at monuments in St Mary's by remembering the Argentein family, whose arms appear in several parts of the church to which they were generous benefactors. On the exterior of the church, on the N. E. buttress is a signature statuette of a knight and his lady (much weathered), with the Argentein arms beneath, possibly of Sir William Argentein, (c1350-1419), with one of his wives.

The North Porch was reputedly built by Sir William in thanks for his safe return, and that of his son William, from the Battle of Agincourt fought on 25 October 1415, St Crispin's Day. This dynasty were Lords of the Manor of Halesworth c1130-1424. Notice over the porch the emblems of the Trinity and of the Passion, the latter cradled by sculptured roses, a flower particularly associated with the Virgin Mary, invoking a vision of the Virgin Mary holding a dead Christ in her arms. A medieval Pietà.

Inside, behind the organ was originally the Lady Chapel, erected by the Argenteins in the perpendicular style. As this architectural style came in after 1350 it is not certain whether to attribute the build to John Argentein (1318-1383) or William (1350-1419). However, it could be significant that William and Margery, his wife, were first entombed there, before later being moved to the St Loy Chapel, (now the Lady Chapel, with, on the floor, the ledger stones of William and Margery Argentein, now without their brasses).

As there is no mention of the building of the original Lady Chapel in the will of John Argentein and his wife Margaret, recent research suggests the chapel was built in John's lifetime (before 1383). William made his will in Halesworth in 1417 and left £5 for the repair of the church. John had previously left 10 shillings for the repair of the church. The arch in which the organ sits bears carved shields whose interpretation is of much speculation. Photographs taken with some difficulty by Jason Busby, organist, squeezing into the space, are displayed in the church.

The Argentein coat of arms can be seen in the elaborate decoration with large fleuron on the broad mouldings and its jambs of the perpendicular arch between the chancel and the present Lady Chapel. The arms, three covered cups, denote that the family served as royal cup bearers, a ceremonial office first awarded on the coronation of Henry II. This influential family played an important role in establishing Halesworth as a flourishing market town from the 12th to the 15th century.

The manors of Halesworth were held for about three centuries by the Argenteins, and came into the family by the marriage of Sir Reginald Argentein to Rose, heiress of Thomas de Halesworth, before 1130. The last male Argentein having died and the line being extinct by about 1420, the property passed, again by marriage, to the Allingtons. The Argenteins had manors in eleven counties in southern England, the main being in Hertfordshire, and were also the holders of many important offices from the Crown. The manor house of Halesworth, was described as 'ruinated' and its park gone by 1602.

Jenny Janes

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## The Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group

**YOUR STORY:**

**Creating family history and  
photo books**

**- a talk by Jane Evans**

On Monday 17th July, the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group will be looking at making different types of Family History Books.

Whether you are experienced with IT or not, our member Jane Evans will make suggestions ranging from compiling a book from notes, to something more eye-catching, such as creating your own book from scratch, with pictures and text.

An interesting way to display your old family photographs. There will be a demonstration and comparison of how to create books using Family Tree Maker, Ancestry & DIY Photo Books.

The talk will be at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham IP17 1AL, at 2.30pm. Visitors welcome at £3 including tea/coffee and biscuits. No need to book – just turn up.

### Walking the Labyrinth – A Time for Reflection



**First Monday of every month**

**2pm-4pm**

**St Peter's Church, Holton**

**Next meeting: Monday 3rd July**

***Everyone Welcome***

For more information contact: Revd. Alison Alder at  
[alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) or 01502 478855

**Future meeting: Monday 7th August**

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St Peter's Church, Holton, IP19 8NB

**Monday 26th June 2023**

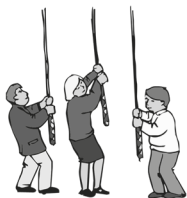
**10am - 3pm**

**Doors into Heaven:  
the role of icons in worship**  
led by Revd Margaret King

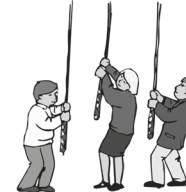
Three talks, each followed by a time for quiet reflection. The day will conclude with the Eucharist.

Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided.





# From the Ringing Chamber



When not practising for the competition (featured on the front page of this issue of *BVTimes*) we've been working on a new (for us) method called Single Oxford Bob Minor (Minor means on six bells). It's taken a while to get this one up to scratch but we are now ringing it quite well and I hope to manage a quarter peal of it soon.

Pete and I have been helping at a new District initiative, a teaching hub at Reydon every Saturday morning. Together with a couple of other teachers we've been helping a dozen or so new ringers to hone their skills, including our own Kari and Joanna. The idea is to help learners progress more

quickly than they would otherwise so they can become useful to their own bands sooner.

Finally, although we still do not have enough competent ringers to ring all eight bells at Halesworth, we have started ringing for the evening service once a month. We can do this by calling on ringers from other towers where there is no longer an evening service, and we rang a decent quarter peal of Grandsire Triples on June 4th. The band consisted of just four Halesworth ringers and two others from within Blyth Valley, so we couldn't have managed without some help from our friends, but at least it is a chance to get Halesworth's bells ringing well sometimes. **PJG**

## HALESWORTH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

**Lights! – Camera! – Action!**  
**FILMS – VIDEOS - PHOTOS**

Please remember our **Call-Out** for any pieces of film footage, videos or old family photos of Halesworth, its people and events. They are needed as part of the celebration of 800 years of Halesworth as a market town and the Heritage Open Days.

If you have anything that might be suitable, please either visit the Museum at the Railway Station, contact: [office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk](mailto:office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk) via email, or leave a message on 07552 508893 with your name and telephone number.

Your original film or pictures would not be altered in any way and will be returned to you.

The final version of a documentary, which will consist of edited digital copies of the original material, will be gifted to the Halesworth & District Museum as a permanent record for the Town's archives.

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## Environmental Update from Waveney and Blyth Deanery

One of the biggest developments in our environmental work as churches in the Waveney and Blyth Deanery is the growing co-operation across different parishes and denominations. Our own Climate Action Conference at the end of September will be a major contribution to this. Here are details of some of the other things that have been happening:

### *Christian Aid Week*

One of the events organised for the week was a showing of the film "Thank You For The Rain" at St Margaret's Reydon. Released in 2017, "Thank You For The Rain" is a collaborative film made by Kisilu Musya, a Kenyan farmer, climate fighter and video diarist, and Julia Dahr, a Norwegian filmmaker and activist. The film follows Kisilu Musya over five years, from small scale farmer to activist on a global scale. It is a powerful film, described in one review as "a compelling, engaging, and complex portrait of an environmental activist." A group of us from the Blyth Valley Team attended the showing and discussed how we could share the film with our own churches and communities, possibly as part of our Harvest Festivals.

The Deanery has a license to show the film and I have a copy. To find out more about the film itself visit Thank You For The Rain | About | Worlds collide on the frontline of climate change.

### *Eco-Church Open Day*

Several people from the Blyth Valley Team attended the Eco Church "Act for Nature" event at Emmanuel Church in Bungay on May 27th. Emmanuel Church is one of only 31 churches in the country which has achieved its Gold Eco-Church Award and it was fascinating to learn about the many different initiatives they have put in place to achieve this. During the afternoon, we heard talks from different members of A Rocha UK and the Eco Church team. One of the main messages was how Christians have the potential to make a big difference in promoting care for the environment and climate justice. There are around 50 000 churches in the UK and A Rocha UK are aiming to have 25% of them registered. A key feature of the scheme is it enables churches to work with their

communities and strengthen relationships between the two.

Helen, the Eco-church manager, talked us through the five strands of the award:

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Church Buildings
- Management of Church Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

Some of our churches are already registered for Eco-Church awards; Spexhall has achieved its Silver already and Chediston is making excellent progress towards its first award. **If you are interested in helping your church achieve an award, please come along to a meeting at Oakhurst, Blackheath Road, Wenhaston IP19 9HD on Monday 31st July at 7.30pm. If you are unable to make the meeting, please contact me at [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) or 01502 478855.**

### *Wilder Wenhaston Open Gardens*

On Sunday 4th June, gardens around Wenhaston were open to the public to show how they are being planned and managed to support wildlife and biodiversity. Several members of local congregations opened up their gardens and encouraged visitors to appreciate the potential of gardens to attract a wide variety of plantlife, insects, birds and wildlife. The event enabled some positive conversations about the church's role in caring for creation.

### *The Climate Imaginarium*

On Saturday 10th June, the Quakers held a "Climate Imaginarium" day as part of the "Big Green Week." Rather than focusing on the enormous challenges that face us as the climate changes, the exhibition focused on ways we CAN make a difference. People could record their hopes on a Tree of Hope, and everyone was invited to write a letter to the future setting out what they hoped the world would be like in 2030. The "Letters to Tomorrow" campaign is national. Letters will be sent to MPs and published to help the public reflect on what the future could be like if we address the climate and biodiversity issues that face us. Again, several people from BVT attended the day as well as Peter Aldous MP.

Revd Alison Alder



**The Waveney  
Foodbank is very  
short of helpers  
at the moment.**

Is there anyone who can spare one or two  
Wednesday mornings each month - 10am to 11.30am  
- to come and help us at St Mary's Halesworth?

If you are able to volunteer, please contact  
Gill on 07940 221054 or Pauline on 07758 489102


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#### Why **Listening**...?

Unlike most evangelism courses, this is more about prayerfully listening - together in small groups - to the guidance of the Holy Spirit than any technique. We learn to engage with people as God leads. It takes away the pressure that the word 'evangelism' sometimes conjures up.

We need to be equipped, not reliant solely on our human strengths and abilities, if we are to fulfil the Great Commission of making disciples of all Nations (Matt 28).

***This really is for all Christians – whether or not you came to any of our five previous sessions. And it is conveniently local: the Pakefield (South Lowestoft) Pontin's Holiday Camp.*** And the cost is less than half what the conference centre was (including breakfast and dinner, but not lunch).

Booking is via the Dunamis website [www.dunamis.org.uk](http://www.dunamis.org.uk)

More info from Jon and Ruth Sermon, 01986 873761 [jon@sermons.me](mailto:jon@sermons.me) .uk

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Thorington	Mike Gower	01502 478078
Walpole	Ken Allen Lee Hill	01986 784240 07713 450078
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	01986 873173



## THE UNNAMED GRAVE

As I walk gently upon the grass  
And move between the stones  
A minor tremor disturbs my feet  
From a person who's unknown

And as I look down on the earth  
I wonder to myself  
Is this the grave of someone dear  
Whose life had limited wealth

No cross, no border, no headstone  
To show who lies beneath  
This piece of un-kept sacred ground  
Now lost to those who weep

What life did they once live I ask  
The family that they knew  
The age of their untimely death  
Their appearance as they grew

But as my thoughts begin to fly  
To imagine who they must be  
A sadness fills my aching heart  
For the stranger I long to see

Forgotten and lost to everyone  
No sentiment of prayer  
No loved ones visiting with kindness  
To show how much they care

Instead they sleep amongst us  
As we talk and walk on by  
Until another unnamed grave  
Reveals the place where someone died

Let us not lament their peace and quiet  
For within these graves they rest  
Their lives now over, their voices still  
All memories now have left

For they are always remembered  
By the others who have died  
As their journeys were made together  
To a world on the other side

M A Kelly

## **ECUMENICAL CLERGY**

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## **Blyth Valley Times**

published monthly by the Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

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**Advertising: 01986 875941/07752 275328.**

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

## **Blyth Valley Team Ministry**

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.  
Details of how you can make a donation to **BVTM** are on our  
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**Your donation goes  
towards the work of the  
BVTM across the Team**



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

**Tel 01986 875941.**

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

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

***If your enquiry is urgent, please contact  
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Joanna Wilkinson 07986 217868  
joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

### St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

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

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



### BRAMFIELD WEDDING

From Rosie Hart:

On June 10th the sun shone and the cold east wind finally dropped for the marriage of Emily Hart and Robert

Upton at Bramfield Church, with the ceremony carried out by the Revd Gini Williams.

Gini performed a lovely ceremony with both formal and informal moments, with Emily and Robert's small son Rhys providing the odd diversion and Otis the Irish Rescue greyhound behaving impeccably!

Emily was born in Bramfield and attended Bramfield, Halesworth and Bungay schools and Sheffield University before moving to Ireland, teaching English at Cork English College.

Robert was adopted by his Irish parents from Romania, and had members of both his Irish and Romanian families at the wedding.

The church looked beautiful with cottage garden plants arranged by Caroline Hawes, an old family friend from Stradbroke who emigrated to Australia over 30 years ago and many local friends helped make the day truly memorable with their help with accommodation and food. Seventy friends and relatives made the journey from Ireland, Romania, Germany, France, Scotland, Wales and Spain together with 40 more local guests.

Emily's bridesmaids were childhood friend Clara Sydney and niece Alysha Bucknor, from Bramfield, School friend Laura Spindler from Metfield, and

Robert's sister Yvonne Upton. Robert's brother Cyprian was Best man.

A party afterwards at Valley Farm completed the day.

Thank you to everyone involved who made the day such a happy occasion.

## Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

Going to church last Sunday I have never before seen such a glorious display of wildflowers particularly the ox-eye daisies – a nod to our King.

It is good to see the new noticeboard by the telephone kiosk, also we have a nice brand-new noticeboard outside Ash Farm made by Wesley Gregory. Plenty of space now to advertise church and other activities in the village.

### Suffolk Show

This year's show was very special, perfect weather and lots to see in the way of all livestock, high class show jumping, Shetland pony grand national etc. Plenty of places to view comfortably all the main ring and other ring's attractions and also, as always, masses of machinery and entertainment for the children. The flower tent was particularly good, possibly some straight from Chelsea.

I was fortunate in hiring a buggy which meant I could really get around the showground. Next year's president is the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich who I believe is much looking forward to 2024.

### Annual Bike Ride

This is due to take place on Saturday 9th September. I don't like advertising this too far in advance as it seems to make the summer go, but this is a chance for you all to add it to your diary. This is the 50th Anniversary of the Bike Ride and to mark this one generous donor has pledged to give £25,000 to the scheme providing the general total exceeds £250,000. This is an ambitious target as last year raised just £181,000 - but as you can see, we do need lots of support this year so please encourage as many riders as possible to join the event.

### BVTimes Subscriptions

Please see page 2 of this issue regarding renewal of subscriptions.



Photo by Peter Everard Smith

They were due in May (having been put back from January annually as a result of the Covid pandemic interrupting publication). Please pay me direct or if paying online, please let me know. Thank you. SA

### Chediston & Linstead WI

Our speaker this month was Pip Wright – he was our speaker over ten years ago and has had 27 books published. He told us superstition played a big part in his writing together with herbal remedies and potions. He provided slides showing the very gruesome treatment of women accused of witchcraft. Gradually through the ages thankfully this custom died out. During his talk he mentioned “an old Sally”. I was interested in this as “Aunt Sally” was the term used for the coconut shies at fairgrounds. My nephews, nieces and greats are not allowed to call me Aunt Sally!

## Cookley

### St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

has joined the “Give a Little” online donation service.

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



## Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby  
01986 873336

As I write this, I have just arrived home from the Visitation Service of the Archdeacon of Suffolk The Venerable Rich Henderson for the admission to the office of Churchwardens hosted by the Blyth Valley at the stunningly beautiful church of St Mary's Huntingfield. The Archdeacons 'charge' (address) came in the form of questions which I put to you all. 1) What does growing deeper in faith look like to you personally? 2) What are you thankful for? 3) What praise is on your lips? 4) What does

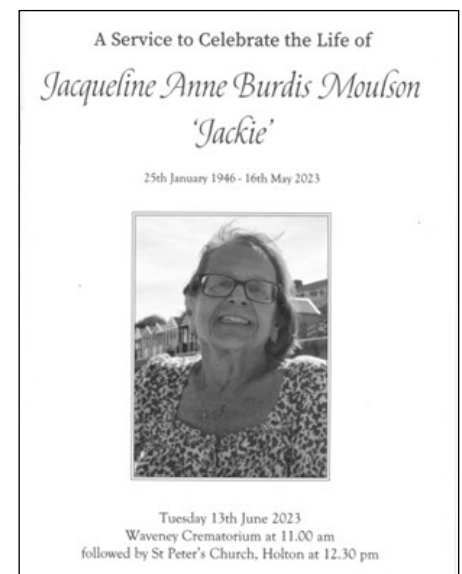
'welcome' look like in your Church? Do take time to think about these questions, anyone wishing to meet up over a coffee and discuss these questions together I'm happy to meet with you. Archdeacon Rich asked us to be more vocal, more evangelistic, shout loudly, share good news, be supportive, challenging & honest. A verse from one of the hymns during the service “*In your work of transformation you are making all things new. Stir our hearts' imagination, call us now to work with you. As we live the Great Commission all will find their part to play: send us out to share your mission, joyful in the world today*”. I have been Churchwarden at St Mary's for a number of years now, certainly a challenging role but THANK YOU for your prayers and support as Rich said we are in it together, we are all the Church.

On June 14th my eldest daughter Sophie turned 10 years old. I hear myself saying those words 'Where have those years gone'? The past 10 years have seen great change at St Mary's. Another change will be completed, tested and up and running by the time you read this column. Through the incredible donations and gifts received St Mary's has purchased a professional live streaming setup. Two cameras (which look like CCTV cameras) are on the pillars either side of the font. Each camera with 8 pre programmed views. All wired into the sound system, we even have a camera in the organ loft. This system will allow us to livestream services, including weddings and funerals, baptisms, concerts, events and meetings with just the click of a few buttons. Watch this space and keep an eye out on Facebook, YouTube and Zoom for the results. I have been asked WHY? Why spend out on such a system. My answer is this: the modern world spends far too much time on social media, Facebook and YouTube, TikTok. Archdeacon Rich spoke of the 'growing in faith' initiative of which one part of it is 'growing younger'. So the way I see it, opening the physical doors to St Mary's is one way we welcome but also opening our virtual door online, just lets hope the community who haven't been into church see that we are still there, this is us, this is what we are about and can offer you.

Looking ahead to July, the MAIN EVENT is on Saturday 15th July when we welcome three exquisite, ambitious and beautifully thrilling ladies known as Lady Maisery to St Mary's. For full details please see the advert on the back page of this issue.

On Wednesday 12th July, my good friend and fellow musician Alexander Campkin brings some of his students to give a Lunchtime Recital as part of the FoSM 2023 series, accompanied by Tanya Kirk.

It was a privilege to play the organ at St Peter's Holton to celebrate the life of Jacqueline Anne Burdis Moulson 'Jackie'.



Jackie worshipped at Halesworth on Wednesdays and Team occasions and always came to the Easter Vigil Service. The Revd Anna Wright gave the address and spoke of Jackie's warmth and generous heart. Anna said *The smallest act of kindness is greater than the grandest intentions. We often fail in our grand intentions. Anna felt that When people die and become one with God, they themselves become more understanding and forgiving.* With so much sadness, devastating and disturbing news stories at the moment I am sure I am not alone in asking why God? Why let this happen? I was moved by Anna's words she said *The existence of an all powerful and all loving God isn't the reality. The principle of life and its flourishing is counterbalanced by the principle of decay, disease and death.* I hadn't thought about it like that. One poem I implore you to look up, from the service (too long to print) Desiderara by Max Ehrmann (1927) take a read! The service concluded with this blessing.. *May the road rise up to meet you. May*



*the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. May Jackie rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.*

### FoSM 50/50 CLUB

Results of the June draw were as follows: 1st prize: W Pagan; 2nd prize: D Newby; 3rd prize: Y Eady.

### HALESWORTH WI

Members enjoyed an interesting talk and slides by Melita on the history of the U3A. The University of the Third Age. The motto is learn, laugh and live. This was a French concept that education is not just for the young, but to learn together and try new experiences. The local Halesworth branch meets once a month at The Cut for a talk with a speaker and has 37 groups with a wide variety of interests, these are led by the members themselves. Table tennis, lunch clubs, walking together, bridge, photography, bird watching, Scrabble, to name just a few. There are U3A groups throughout the country with approximately 450,000 members.

Anna Mickleburgh then told us about the National Federation WI Resolution which was to be discussed at our National AGM in Cardiff in early June. A very topical subject as we, the WI movement, called for the Government to "Clean our Rivers" and improve water supplies. Our members agreed to support this resolution.

Arrangements were sorted for our June outing to Taverham travelling in two Hoppa buses; and the next Kurling date at the Rifle Hall. **BP**

### St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

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



# Heveningham

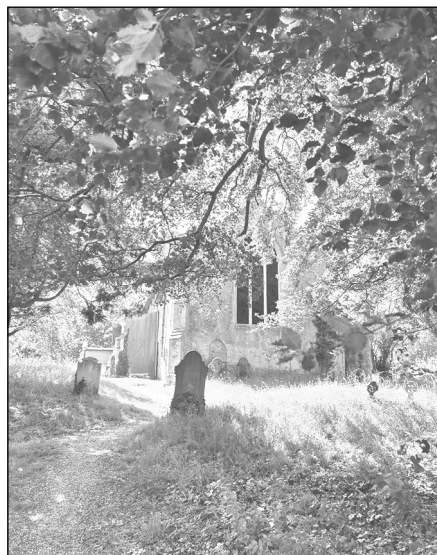
Correspondent Christine Baker  
[c\\_bakerx@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:c_bakerx@yahoo.co.uk)

### St Margaret's Church, Heveningham

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

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

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



May has been a busy time for us with keeping the paths mown, and the church clean (bats are very much in residence again!). We also had the wedding of Marc and Jane, which turned out to be a fabulous sunny day.

Jeanette will be announcing several events over the summer including hand bell ringing (hopefully all outside) and these will be advertised next month in the *BVTimes*, the Halesworth library and outside the church. Don't forget our library in the church which is for everyone to come along to, or when you pass by to pick up a book or two (a donation would be greatly appreciated if possible). We have some really good titles.

Lastly, Heveningham now has a choir for our services, which are the second Sunday in the month.

We are looking for a male voice to add to the Team, so if you are interested please contact us on the email: [stmargarechurch11@gmail.com](mailto:stmargarechurch11@gmail.com) Our next Service will be Evensong at 6.30pm on July 9th.

## Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett

01986 875913

[jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com)

### St Peter's Church, Holton

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

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-peters-church-holton>

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



I am writing this column on June 13th, the day of the Memorial Service for our friend and fellow Christian, Jackie Moulson, who died on May 16th. The service was led by the Revd Anna Wright and the Revd Gini Williams. Jackie's son Sam read Matthew 5: 1 – 10, her daughter Zoe read *Desiderata* by Max Ehrmann and Dan, Jackie's eldest son, read the tribute to their mother. It was a potted breakdown of her character which gave a very good picture of what Jackie was like. We all have our own memories of Jackie which, no doubt, vary tremendously. As Anna said in her address, we are all made up of different facets, and we only see some of those facets when looking at other people.

Jackie was a valued member of the family at St Peter's and will be greatly missed, not least by the other members of the PCC. She was willing to say what others found difficult, to point out problems, to see the outcome of decisions, and sometimes to be downright awkward!

It was said in the tribute that she would tidy up people's clothing; she did that with me, it felt like having an older sister who was looking out for you and making sure that you didn't "mess up".



I will miss her, both for her kindness and also for her more tart comments!

After the service at St Peter's a number of the congregation went to the Golf Club for refreshments, where we were able to see pictures of Jackie with her family from various times in her life. It was lovely to see her and Roger enjoying time together at Southwold, Jackie with her children and grandchildren, and Jackie with her own parents and siblings.

We will miss her greatly, but we know that she is now with her Lord and Saviour where there is no pain or suffering. God bless you, Jackie.

### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING AND BOX OPENING

On Saturday 1st July, from 10am to 12 noon, St Peter's will be hushed as boxes are opened and money counted. In St Peter's Room, however, there will be the buzz of conversation, the clink of tea/coffee spoons on cups, and the satisfied appreciation of cakes and consuming of same. There will be opportunity to buy goodies (hopefully the bakers among us will have risen to the occasion and supplied the Bring and Buy stall), and there will also be a Raffle in the porch.

Don't forget if you are writing a cheque, you need to make it out to 'The Children's Society'. We will hope the fine weather continues into July.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact Janet Walkey, local Box Co-ordinator for The Children's Society for St Peter's Holton & St Mary's Halesworth.. 01986 872594. Email: janetwalkey@hotmail.com

### ST PETER'S FLOWER FESTIVAL: "OUR VILLAGE – PAST AND PRESENT"

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July from 10am to 5pm.

The Flower Festival is looked forward to by many people, not only for the lovely flower arrangements but also for the ideas and imagination behind the displays. Come along and enjoy what is a fabulous weekend, a feast for the eyes and if the refreshments match other years, a feast for the taste buds too.

There will be a raffle and tombola. On Sunday afternoon the Ukulele Group will be playing from 2.30pm and in the evening at 6pm, there will be a Songs of Praise Service.

### PENTECOST

On May 28th, *Churches Together in the Blyth Valley* held a service on Holton Church paddock to celebrate Pentecost. The weather was fine, an unexpected blessing, and the congregation from around the Blyth Valley came together to remember the day that the Holy Spirit came and settled on the disciples and empowered them to preach the Gospel. The beginning of the Church worldwide.

The Revd Alison Alder led the service, the united *Open the Book* teams from the United Reformed Church and Anglican Churches in the Blyth Valley gave a dramatised reading from the Bible of the coming of the Holy Spirit. There was "audience" participation as we explored the fruits of the Spirit and a time of prayer led by the Revd John Sermon. It was a happy and joyful time of fellowship.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Dennis Ashpole will be 90 years old on July 13th! I am sure he would appreciate a card, if you remember him.

## Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke  
sally.clarke@live.com

### St Mary's Church, Huntingfield

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

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



On Tuesday 13th June we were delighted to welcome our newly installed Archdeacon Rich Henderson for his Visitation Service to formally admit his churchwardens for another year of office. During the service the Revd Joshua Bailey was licensed as Rural Dean of Waveney and Blyth. The bells rang and the choir and congregation sang, thank you for filling

our church with the sound of many voices and prayer.

During the first week of June there were visitors to the church from all over the world. It is lovely to read the visitors' book and wonder how and why some of them made their way to our church. During that week we had visitors from; Liverpool, Woodbridge, Vancouver Canada, Cheddar, Florida USA, St Albans, Lincoln, Melbourne Aus, Plymouth, Auckland NZ, California USA, Stradbroke.

The church is open daily 10.30am - 4.30pm. All are welcome.

### Moth Survey - July 22nd

Regular moth surveys take place around Suffolk and Huntingfield with the aim of monitoring and recording the number and range of species. This year, you are invited to join us at St Mary the Virgin Huntingfield on Saturday 22nd July at 8.45am to help identify and learn about these fascinating nocturnal creatures. Special light traps will be in place overnight that harmlessly attract and trap the moths. During the morning the moths will be studied and released. In the UK there are approx 2500 different types of moth so we have no idea what we might find. To help us out the renowned Suffolk moth expert, Matthew Deans will be joining us. There will be coffee and croissants available, what a great start to the weekend!

## Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

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

SUMER IS NOT JUST ICUMEN IN, IT has arrived with a vengeance. It's funny how one adapts readily to a Mediterranean lifestyle and does one's gardening in the evening. But give thanks unto the Lord that you live in Suffolk and can at least enjoy it.

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD WI MET IN June and heard Pip Wright give a very interesting talk about witches in and around Suffolk. It appears that Linstead had its very own witch who, sad to relate, was dragged off to Halesworth and de-activated, for want of a better description. The audience was also informed that a third nipple was a sure sign of a witch and that one in 12 of us are the proud owners of such a feature. There was a discreet silence on the subject. They meet next on July 12th at 2.30pm in Linstead Village Hall. The



All are welcome to browse the contents of a variety of attics and cellars between 10am and 3pm (could prove very enlightening!) Free entry, and tea/ coffee and cake will be available.

**A Final Strim**

Our beautiful churchyard doesn't look so good without careful management. Grafters are needed on **Tuesday 4th July at 6pm** to help strim, rake and tidy. Bring your strimmer/rake/hedge cutter and join the happy band for a high summer strim.

(FYI Woodpecker knows that Midsummer is June 24th, so artistic licence was employed in the above.)

**St Peter's Church, Spexhall**

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

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



**Thorington**

Correspondent

**Trish Gower 01502 478078**  
[trish@coastal1.plus.com](mailto:trish@coastal1.plus.com)

We would like to invite you to our special event on September 9th and 10th, so do please book the date.. see below for further details.

More news on this and church matters next month!

**ARTISTREE**

**September 9th & 10th**  
**Thorington**

Thorington Church is a historic hidden gem nestled in the heart of the Suffolk countryside. Recently put on the map by the outdoor theatre just up the road, Thorington is a scattering of farms with a Suffolk Wildlife Trust conservation area and the Church.

Thorington PCC are organising Artistree on September 9th and 10th, an exhibition of two and three dimensional artwork inspired in some way by trees

and all things to do with trees – birds, habitats, patterns etc. in order to raise money for the church. Sculptural work is to be displayed against, amongst, on or from a hidden circle of trees and two dimensional work will be in the barn at Laundry Farm.

We have this glorious field of trees, adequate parking for visitors, and lots of delicious refreshment on offer, and on your way you may like to visit the church in its beautiful surroundings. We have held very successful art exhibitions in the past, but this slightly different idea offers more variety. We have attracted lots of artists to support the venture as well as some craft stalls selling appropriately themed wares. We have a great many enthusiastic art loving friends and supporters of Thorington Church and hope to make this event a great success.

If you would like to help in any way or would like to know more about this event please contact one of us:

**Vivienne Burns 07920 339906**  
[info@cowshedholidays.co.uk](mailto:info@cowshedholidays.co.uk)  
**Trish Gower 07776 077860**  
[trish@coastal1.plus.com](mailto:trish@coastal1.plus.com)

**Walpole**

Correspondents

**Lee & Anita Hill 07713 450078**  
[anita.hill2006@gmail.com](mailto:anita.hill2006@gmail.com)

**AN EVENING OF JAZZ**

Sunday 9th July, St Mary's Walpole - *An Evening of Live Jazz* from the Dave Keech Quartet.

Please see the advertisement on page 29 for more information and details of where to buy tickets.

**St Mary's Church, Walpole**

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

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



**Wenhaston**

Correspondent

**Margaret Bloomfield**

**01502 478502**

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

**St Peter's Church, Wenhaston**

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

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



As I write this column, we are being treated to a heatwave. It is lovely to feel the sun after so much cloud and cold wind. The roses are in full bloom and my wildflower garden is ablaze with poppies. A sight for sore eyes! However, we are never satisfied and now our gardens need rain!

June has been a quiet month here in Wenhaston church. You may receive your *BVTimes* in time to read about our Church and Community Day on June 25th. It is the Sunday nearest to Petertide, our Patronal Festival, and there will be lots going on in church and in the churchyard, so do come and join us. There will be some interesting archive material all about Wenhaston in the past.

The church ladies are serving the refreshments at the Village Show and if anyone would like to donate a cake or savouries, we should be most grateful. Looking forward to seeing all the interesting entries in the Show.

**July Services**

- 2nd TEAM Holy Communion at Halesworth, 10am
- 9th Morning Prayer joint service with Methodists, 10am, St Peter's
- 17th Holy Communion, 10am, St Peter's
- 23rd Pause for thought, 10am, St Peter's
- 30th TEAM Holy Communion, 10am, Blyford All Saints



**WENHASTON M U**

"Is the Mother's Union relevant in today's society" - one of the questions which we discussed during our discussion meeting in June. Although numbers of members were small, we had an enjoyable afternoon with a variety of questions. Some serious and other very light hearted but it is always a popular meeting.

In July, we shall be gathering at Spindleberry on what we hope will be a hot summer's day for our Garden Party. This will be at **3pm ~~not~~ 2.30pm**, as is usual. We will have the Wave of Prayer Service in which everyone can join in and this will be followed by a Cream Tea, which I am sure will be delicious!

We are still undecided as to whether we shall go on a summer outing with tea at one of the many popular cafés in the area. This does not seem to be such a popular idea as in the past.

We continue to remember Daphne Francis in our prayers at our meetings and we are grateful for her continued interest in our Branch, she is such an amazing lady.

**Margaret G, Branch Leader  
(01502 478378)**

**WENHASTON WALKING GROUP**

Our first walk in July, on Tuesday 4th, will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. The second walk in Walberswick will start at 10am on Tuesday 18th, leaving from the main car park just past The Bell pub. Lunch arrangements at The Bell will be notified shortly.

If you wish to have your name added to the walkers' circulation list, please email: [ipbigwood@btinternet.com](mailto:ipbigwood@btinternet.com)

**Heather Phillips (01502 478545)**

**Wissett**

**Correspondent Mary Pester**

**01986 835869**

**[marypester@rocketmail.com](mailto:marypester@rocketmail.com)**

**St Andrew's Church,  
Wissett**

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

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: <https://www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/st-andrews-church-wissett>

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



When I was a child we sang in assembly at Primary School, "Glad that I live am I and the sky is blue." The hymn goes on... "After the rain the sun, after the sun the rain..."

I have been wishing the weather was like that. Sun in the day, a little rain at night. I am writing this on June 11th. "A dripping June keeps all in tune". Not this year! It has been dry in Wissett for about a month and no rain forecast.

The poppies by the verge near the church are glorious in the sun and the swifts are swirling and screeching over the church enjoying the fine weather. I wonder what next month will bring with St Swithun's Day on July 15th?

My Oxford Dictionary of Saints tells me that Swithun was Bishop of Winchester. He died on 2nd July 862 and had asked to be buried in the

cemetery, which he was, by the west door. His relics were moved into the cathedral on 15th July 971 on which day it rained heavily which was seen as a manifestation of Swithun's powers. I wonder if they wanted rain then in July 971?

I have been chiding myself for not getting on with making a record of all the graves in the churchyard. I started then stopped as it seemed as hard a task as the poor Miller's daughter having to spin all that straw into gold before morning in the Fairy Story Rumpelstiltskin.

I did make a start however, beginning with the graves from the Lodge Lane gate to the path to the shed. Some are very worn and really hard to read at all unless the sun is at just the right angle.

One of these worn ones is for Susannah Hagger who died on 7th September 1816 "in the 97th year of her age". 97 years old in 1816! Think what she would have lived through and what her grandparents could have told her.

As Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586) writes in his poem, Why Fear to Die?, "Our life is but a step in dusty way." I find that comforting. Susannah Hagger's grave is right by the path opposite the church tower so do look out for her and I will press on with recording the graves.

Back to July 2023. Wissett has three services in July. Morning Prayer on the 9th, Holy Communion on the 16th and Breakfast Church on the 23rd. All services are at 10am.

Who knows? It may even be pouring with rain by then.



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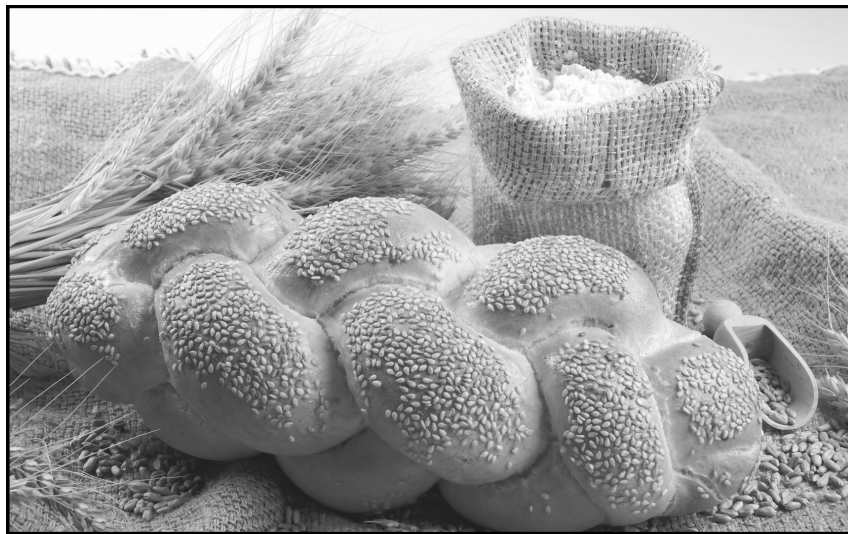
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# LAMMAS

## BREAD & WINE FESTIVAL

### St Mary's Church, Halesworth

### SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2023



**2pm: Tasting and Talks - Bread and Wine**

**2pm-4pm: Sideshows**

**4pm Judging: Prizes awarded for:-**

**Wine: Best Amateur Red  
Best Amateur White**

**Lammas Loaf: Made by an Adult  
Made by a Child**

**6pm: Lammas Service and Reception**

**Stalls featuring local Bread and Wine producers**

**Raffle - lots of prizes to be won!**

***FREE ENTRY - donations appreciated to church funds***



*Celebrating 800 Years 'Halesworth Market Town'*

20<sup>a</sup>  **SIGN OF THE FISH** books cards refreshments

### The Elixir

Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things thee to see,  
And what I do in anything,  
To do it as for thee:

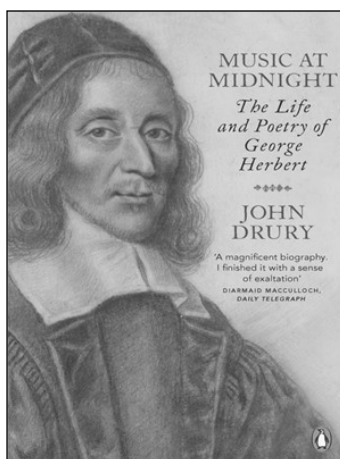
Not rudely, as a beast,  
To runne into an action;  
But still to make thee prepossest,  
And give it his perfection.

A man that looks on glasse,  
On it may stay his eye;  
Or if he pleaseth, through it passe,  
And then the heav'n espie.

All may of thee partake:  
Nothing can be so mean,  
Which with his tincture (for thy sake)  
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause  
Makes drudgerie divine:  
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,  
Makes that and th' action fine.

This is the famous stone  
That turneth all to gold:  
For that which God doth touch and own  
Cannot for lesse be told.



I was musing on school assemblies today, day-dreaming perhaps, probably because we'd just done an Open the Book session at our local primary school. How different from my school days when we had a mini "act of worship" with prayers, a reading and a hymn (our headmaster exhorted the boys to stop growling and make a better effort). A favourite hymn was the poem opposite, sung to a quite brisk and perky tune, although I do not recall singing verse two, it's actually hard to sing in the tune we used so we were probably singing the tidied-up Wesley version.

The poem is *The Elixir* by George Herbert 1593-1633, an all-round lovely man by all accounts, loved by his parishioners. His collection of religious poems, *The Temple*, quickly sold 20,000 copies, a large number at that time. Several of them have become popular hymns; they show a warm, genuine faith, not without its struggles, and an unassuming character. He wrote his own version of Psalm 23, centuries before Stuart Townend, and *Love* ("Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back, Guilty of dust and sin") which many of us will have heard at least once on a radio poetry programme, or come across while studying the metaphysical poets at school (is that still done, I wonder?).

Katherine Langrish, who also sang "Teach me my God and King" at school wrote "The success of Herbert's poetry is partly in his ability to articulate things we feel we have always known but never said so well. Light can pass through glass, yet glass can also obscure what is behind it. St Paul's words 'now we see as through a glass, darkly; but then face to face' (1 Corinthians 13:12) must surely have been in his mind as he wrote that verse. For Herbert, God was the light behind the glass, the light which illumines the world."

God was, in fact, the only true elixir, the only source of eternal life.

And like Herbert we can pray "Thou who hast given so much to me, give me one more thing... a grateful heart".

*Val Jennings*

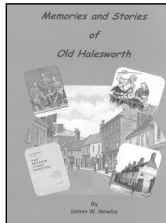
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Donations of food for the Foodbank can also be left at  
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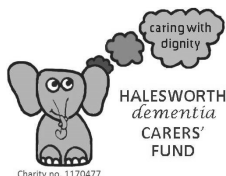
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Special Film Matinee  
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**WEDNESDAY 19th JULY**

Doors open at 1.45pm for 2pm start.

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6pm Sunday



## Walpole Old Chapel

Sunday 9th July, 3pm

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Tickets £8 on the door or in advance from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=Walpole%20Old%20Chapel>

Saturday 15th July, 7pm

### Moonflower duo - Clare Durrant (fiddle) and Jane Parker (harp)

Offering a broad mix of gentle reflective music for a summer's evening.

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Saturday 29th July, 7pm

### Blake Morrison and The Hosepipe Band

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## WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

### ST MARY'S WALPOLE EVENTS

An Evening of Live Jazz from the  
**Dave Keech Quartet**



On Sunday 9th July we present **The Dave Keech Quartet**, featuring; Dave Keech on Trombone, Isaac Keech on piano, bassist Sean Blake and Adam Scott on drums.

In 2014 Dave Keech founded JazzUp, a thriving club night and organisation in North London aimed at showcasing the rich diversity and talent of the UK jazz scene while providing a platform for the leading exponents of contemporary jazz.

We are thrilled that Dave Keech and his quartet will be lighting up St Mary's Walpole with their irresistible arrangements.

**Sunday 9th July 2023: 7:00pm**  
St Mary's Church, Walpole IP19 9AU

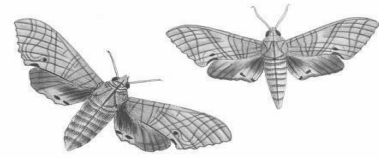
Tickets: £10 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-of-live-jazz-from-the-dave-keech-quartet-tickets-653774907347?aff=oddtcreator>

Or contact Anita Hill 07717 503511 - [anita.hill2006@gmail.com](mailto:anita.hill2006@gmail.com)

All proceeds in aid of the St Mary's Restoration Fund.

Refreshments - Parking in field opposite the Church

### SATURDAY 22nd JULY



**Moth Survey in the  
churchyard of St Mary the  
Virgin, Huntingfield starting  
at 8.45am**

*There are over 2500 species of moths in the UK so join us to see what moths have been harmlessly trapped overnight. Matthew Deans, a renowned moth expert will be on hand to help identify them before they are released. Coffee and croissants available*



*Friends of St Mary's Halesworth*

### Lunchtime Recital

**St Mary's Church, Halesworth**  
**Wednesday 12th July, 12.30pm**

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<b>Dunwich: The Ship</b>	Fri 21 July, 7.30pm
<b>Wenhaston Church Common</b>	Sat 22 July, 1.30pm
<b>Sibton: The White Horse</b>	Sat 22 July, 7.30pm
<b>Westhall: The Racehorse</b>	Sun 23 July, 2.00pm

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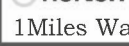
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**2023 concert / events highlights**

<b>Wednesday 12 July</b> 12noon for 12.30pm	RECITAL BY ALEXANDER CAMPKIN & STUDENTS A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch	
<b>Saturday 15 July</b> 7.30pm	LADY MAISERY CONCERT - Funded by Halesworth Arts Festival We welcome to Halesworth a trio with the "most exquisite vocal harmony on the English folk scene"	
<b>Saturday 5 August</b> From 2pm onwards	LAMMAS BREAD & WINE FESTIVAL From tasting & talks to a Lammas Service and reception Come down and see what is on offer	
<b>Wednesday 9 August</b> 12noon for 12.30pm	RECITAL BY ALEXANDER CAMPKIN & STUDENTS A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch	
<b>Friday 8 Sept</b> 7pm	BOHEMIAN CHOIR RETURN TO ST MARY'S We are thrilled to welcome back the girls choir of THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF LIBEREC, CZECH REPUBLIC	
<b>Friday 29 September</b> 6.30-9.30pm	CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE Another step on our journey to Net Zero! Expert panel discussion / Exhibition showcasing local projects	

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