



Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

May 2024

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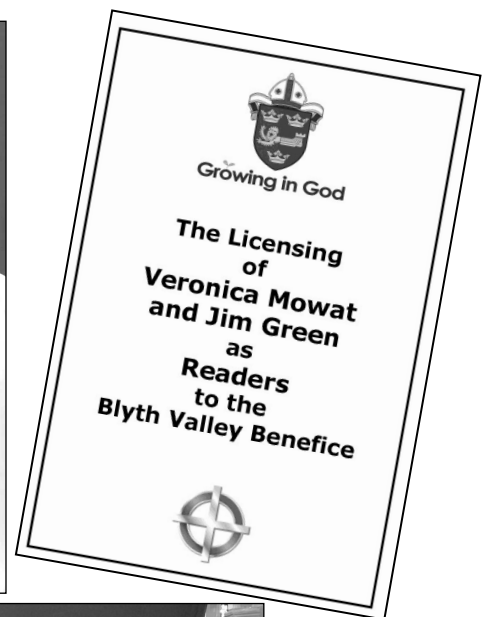
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Licensing of Readers

On Sunday 7th March we welcomed Barbara Hill - Deputy Warden of Readers for the licensing of Veronica Mowat and Jim Green as Readers to the Blyth Valley Benefice. Barbara preached about *"being in the right place at the right time, isn't that what we should would like to practice in our Christian journey day by day. We are called to follow Christ so it stands to reason that he will lead us to the right place at the right time."*

Veronica and Jim we welcome you into our Benefice as Readers, with the authority to exercise the office of Reader in this community. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards. May the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Amen.

JB



Pictured above (l to r):
The Revd Gini Williams, Veronica Mowat,
Jim Green and Barbara Hill.



(Photos courtesy:
Jason Busby and
Keith Noakes)

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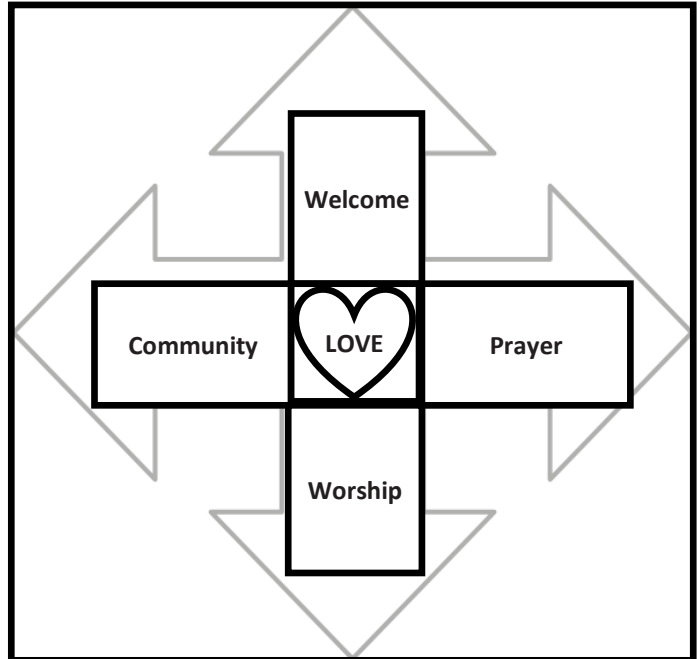
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Huntingfield - Linstead - Spexhall - Thorington - Walpole - Wenhaston - Wissett.**

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

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FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS,
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WEBSITE:

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There are news items and photos on our
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May 2024 Lectionary

for Traditional and Holy Communion only.

Please refer to another lectionary for other services e.g. Daily Office (Morning Prayer).

Sunday 5th

Traditional Communion – Fifth After Easter (White)

James 1: 22 – end (KJV)

John 16: 23 – end (KJV)

Holy Communion – Sixth of Easter (White)

1 John 5: 1 – 6 (NRSV)

John 15: 9 – 17 (NRSV)

Sunday 12th

Traditional Communion – After Ascension (White)

1 Peter 4: 7 – 11 (KJV)

John 15: 26 – 16: 4 (KJV)

Holy Communion – After Ascension (White)

Acts 1: 15 – 17, 21 – 26 (NRSV)

John 17: 6 – 19 (NRSV)

Sunday 19th

Traditional Communion – Whit Sunday (Red)

Acts 2: 1 – 11 (KJV)

John 14: 15 – end (KJV)

Holy Communion – Pentecost (Red)

Acts 2: 1 – 21 (NRSV)

John 15: 26 – 27; 16: 4b – 15 (NRSV)

Sunday 26th

Traditional Communion – Trinity (White)

Revelation 4: 1 – end (KJV)

John 3: 1 – 15 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Trinity (White)

Romans 8: 12 – 17 (NRSV)

John 3: 1 – 17 (NRSV)



Worship in the Blyth Valley in May 2024				
CW – Year B Continuous New Testament	5th CW – Sixth of Easter (White) BCP – Fifth After Easter (White)	12th CW – After Ascension (White) BCP – Second After (White)	19th CW – Pentecost (Red) BCP – Whit (Red)	26th CW & BCP Trinity (White)
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion Gini	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason 6pm Evensong Dominic	10am Holy Communion Linda
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Jim	10am Iona Worship Linda	10am Holy Communion Alison
Wenhaston St Peter		10am Ecumenical Communion David	10am Holy Communion Alison	10am Pause for Thought
Bramfield St Andrew		6pm Evensong Linda		
Blyford All Saints				
Thorington St Peter				10am Morning Prayer Veronica M
St Andrew Group				
Wissett St Andrew		2.30pm Rogation Walk Wissett Lodge to Spexhall Village Hall	10am Holy Communion Gini	10am Morning Prayer David
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Alison		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D
Spexhall St Peter			10am Morning Prayer Dominic	
Linstead St Margaret			10am Matins Malcolm	
St Michael Group				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Desmond	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Traditional Communion Dominic		
Huntingfield St Mary				
Walpole St Mary				10am Holy Communion Vic

Additional Service:

6pm Thursday 9th, Ascension Communion, St Mary's Halesworth - Dominic.

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

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

MAY 2024

May 5th	The Revd Iain McKillop
May 12th	United Service at St Peter's, 10am
May 19th	The Revd Robin Searles HC
May 26th	The Revd Martin Keenan

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

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Father Christopher Smith

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

Please enquire about our Service times and details



Morning and Evening Prayer

with the Revd Dominic Doble,
from Tuesdays to Saturdays

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

From

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092

Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer

Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304

Passcode - 825686

Halesworth & Bramfield URC

Minister: Revd Jon Sermon

SERVICES for MAY 2024

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

Tuesday lunchtimes: 30 minute worship @ 12.30pm
(at Lowestoft)



Tuesdays after school, alternate weeks:
Tue 7th and Tue 21st

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

Specific include:

Sun 5th: Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom) includes communion.

Revd Jon Sermon.

Also 3pm worship at Bramfield Chapel

Church AGM, 7pm

Wed 8th:

Sun 12th: Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom). Dorothy Courtis

Sun 19th: Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom). The Revd Jon Sermon.

Also Joint Christian Aid Service at St Mary's 3pm

Sun 26th: Gathered in the church building (and on Zoom)

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761 pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Elizabeth Aslett 07710 916737 (for families and children)
familyhurc@gmail.com



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

Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

The Revd Alison Alder at:

revalialder@gmail.com

or

The Revd Linda Berry at:

revd.linda@huntingfield.uk

From the Rector...

What does your identity mean to you? How do you identify? One of our grown up, married friends, with children, writes a blog. In a recent post they wrote about making a decision to pursue, create and or discover their identity.

In the run up to Easter, we left the altar bare, some churches remove or obscure symbols of their Christian identity. We also held a couple of events exploring the disfiguring of creation through the medium of Jesus' brutalisation – his loss of identity. As Easter unfolds, we are reminded of the ancient Hebrew stories of God's people pursuing, creating and or discovering their identity on emancipation, whilst wandering in the wilderness, wondering at their establishment. We are invited to participate in Mary's searching in the wrong place for comfort in her loss, in the face of her obscured fulfilment until her identity is called out and she, a representative of the demonised, finds a voice, role and purpose. Then, this month we celebrate the birthday of the church fifty days after the feast of the resurrection. This was the occasion when a distinctive experience that came to be used to identify believers was first witnessed.

Identity is still a hot topic. How many organisations can be seen flying a Palestinian flag? How many young people give or take their lives in desperation to be someone? How much money is spent by organisations and individuals to present themselves as the answer to our question? It is my hope, that increasingly as we wander together in the wilderness that is our world today, we will learn more of who we, and they, are as individuals and as organisations. Recognising our shared pain at disfigurement and misrepresentation. Inspiring our shared gain from collective ambition and complementarity.

All too often, any person or group may hold a view or opinion of another that is uninformed or shallow. Their presumption may come from hearsay or be extrapolated from a limited sample of one or two generalised to include the whole. Those outside the church may disregard adherents as, at best, irrelevant and boring or, at worst, slightly worryingly misguided - if sincere. Factions within, may not consider others as

even being proper believers at all because they identify as this or that, or practise this or that. Looking outward, those inside the church may object to non-church people being involved in activities that used to be done in-house, or getting married here when we never see them otherwise.

Counter-intuitively, at least one answer to the challenge of finding and presenting identity as individual or organisation, is offered by participating in community. This is an age old ecological principle. Not so much the survival of the fittest; but, the survival of the best protected. Think flocks of birds or shoals of fish. As we connect ourselves with those with whom we largely agree, or otherwise, we are enabled to express a distinctiveness that would otherwise go unnoticed and be lost to us.

The extraordinary thing that happened at Pentecost was that people from across the known world, saw the church and some got it. And, some people from across the known world who also saw but chose not to. Even the self-confessed atheist Richard Dawkins recently famously asserted himself to be a 'cultural Christian'. This confirms my view that the Church of England is, or should be, a safe place for everyone. Those who do not really know what they do believe and those who are sure they know what they don't. If that is you, come on down. We need your practical, moral and financial support as our village and town communities to be able to express and inspire the justice, hope, faith, creativity and peace for which, I think, we all yearn. In turn, we offer you our buildings, voice, churchyards, connections, spirituality and activities giving encouragement and space for you and your hopes and fears, aims and objectives and all that makes you, you.

Dominic

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HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

One of the exciting things that happened with us was the group trip to Spring Harvest.

Leaving for Skegness on Easter Monday, 27 of us mainly from the young families' ministry spent the week with around 5,000 people, enjoying a festival of worship, Bible teaching, activities, fun and fellowship.

Our group included 17 children ranging from just over a year to mid-teens. The children and youth provision is so good for all age groups. And for parents & children – and all others who wanted to, each day included the 'Big Start Boot Camp' with actors playing fitness/sports people who get sent on a 'mini-mission' linked to a Bible story. Daily mottos and a theme song added to the feel of togetherness and sense of purpose. Then the children went to their age specific groups, which they all loved, and there were Bible sessions and seminars for the adults.

The rest of the day included many workshops to dip into, free time, access to all the Butlins facilities and all age worship plus evening celebrations with some excellent speakers.

Overall, a faith-building experience!

Now, with the schools back we have returned to 'normal' church life, The Open the Book team are back to weekly sessions at Edgar Sewter School. Home groups continue, in some cases with materials based on the themes from Spring Harvest, drawing on Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

And having celebrated Easter, we continue to live the experience of being 'Easter People' as we look forward to Pentecost.

Blessings

Jon

**Revd Jon Sermon,
Minister of**

**Halesworth & Bramfield URC
and North Lowestoft URC**



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SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday.

8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday.

6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

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



My wife, Ruth and I have been involved with Dunamis Fellowship, an international and inter-denominational ministry, for over 20 years. Last year, they put on an interactive event on Zoom for Pentecost and it is happening again:

PENTECOST Prayer & Praise

Thursday 16th May at 7pm online via Zoom.

Attend individually or as a small group. You need to register to receive the Zoom link: Go to www.dunamis.org.uk

I will be there, with one of our home groups.

Hope to see others from Blyth Valley Churches.

Blessings *Jon*

Revd Jon Sermon, minister of Halesworth URC



What has your Team Vicar been up to?

It's true that Easter is probably the busiest time of the year for we clergy. There is a lot going on between Palm Sunday when we remember how Jesus was welcomed by crowds in Jerusalem and Good Friday when those same crowds were crying out for his death on the cross. It was a joy finally to share the celebration of Jesus coming back from the dead, in St Mary's Halesworth on Easter Sunday morning. What a joy to be able to remind everyone that it was all about God's unconditional, radically generous love for absolutely everyone. Alleluia!

In Easter week, I took two funerals, which were perhaps more meaningful being so close to Easter, when we are reminded of how God is with us through the highest ups and the deepest downs, and that God loves us, and is with us, no matter what. Maybe that is what people who say they are jealous of people with faith, are missing. That consolation of unconditional love. I wonder if people find it difficult to realise that it is freely given to all, not earned, not bargained for but just there to be accepted. Surely there's a catch? I struggled with this for years in my twenties and thirties, but I gradually came to realise I was rejecting the very thing I needed most.

Back to what I have been up to recently. I took the second week of April off and was grateful to be taking a break because I was feeling a lot of new pain down my right side, especially in my leg. I spoke to my MS nurse on Monday and she said I was due a review and

recommended a medication for nerve pain. On Tuesday an old friend came to see me and I finally got to take my electric trike out beyond the drive, up the road and onto the track past Kinda Forest School. I ignored the pain and was absolutely chuffed with myself.


The next day I was extremely uncomfortable and to cut a long story short, was diagnosed with shingles. A big thank you to Cutler's Hill surgery for dealing with me so kindly and efficiently. If anyone out there has been offered and not yet had their shingles jab, please go and get it. I am very glad that my new symptoms were not a worsening of the MS, but it is very painful and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. The trike will have to wait for a while – I'm resting up and trying not to get too frustrated. It's so difficult not to feel guilty.

Anyway, it is almost May, now, my favourite time of the year, when everything flourishes and nature shows off her true splendour. No-mow-May seems to be a regular thing, although last year turned into a no-mow-2024 at The Vicarage. It doesn't rhyme so well, and it may not be good to not mow at all, but the wildness has certainly added to the variety of plant and wildlife in the garden. I suppose that's what we have to remember. The world is a wild and wonderful thing that keeps turning in spite of us. Some of it is ordered, most of it does its own thing. It goes for everything I suppose: we can only do what we can where we are and whatever state we are in. Receive the love, share the love and have faith that in the spheres beyond our understanding, all will be well.

With love and blessings

Revd Gini

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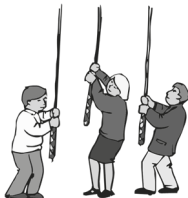
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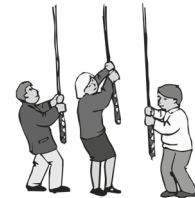
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From the Ringing Chamber



The big news this month – OK, it's not that big, don't get too excited - is that we at last successfully rang a quarter peal of Single Court Bob Minor at Wissett. Single Court is not actually that difficult, but avid readers will know from previous reports that we had failed to complete the 1272 changes in four previous attempts. This time the team was determined to score. I had persuaded my little sister to help us out, leaving me to ring the treble and concentrate on putting the calls in the right place. Everything was going to plan, and we were three quarters of the way through, when the light started to flicker, not just the occasional dimming, but violently like a strobe in a disco, and it didn't stop. I was all ready to go and beat up an electrician, but fortunately the team stuck to the task, despite the migraine-inducing atmosphere, and we struggled to the end. Phew! Seldom was a pint in the Angel so well-earned!

The next day, Saturday, saw some of us hiking over to Stowmarket for the AGM of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers. Although a quarter peal attempt at Buxhall failed after some decent ringing, we enjoyed the new ring of ten bells at

Stowmarket, and the meal that followed, prepared and served by the enterprising Stowmarket ringers. The AGM was something of a damp squib with nothing controversial on the agenda and no contested elections, but it did mean we all had extra time to enjoy the delights of "The Walnut" pub down the road.

The next day we followed up Friday's success with a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples at Halesworth, ostensibly for Evensong except, with Dominic on holiday, there wasn't actually a service! There were no memorable firsts in this, but lots of consolidatory practice, and a reminder of how difficult Halesworth's bells are to ring well.

Which brings me on to the other bit of excitement this month: the visit to Bramfield and Halesworth of Mark from Whites of Appleton, one of the country's leading bell hangers. We haven't received his written reports yet, but the important news from his immediate verbal comments is that one of Bramfield's bells, the fourth, is in a potentially dangerous condition and should not be rung (except for very important reasons, like a coronation). That effectively means that Bramfield bells will not be rung for the foreseeable future. It will in theory be possible to ring the front three (the tenor of fifth is heading the same way as the fourth) if needs be, e.g. for a wedding, but otherwise they will be left well alone until such time as funds are available to carry out whatever work is required.

We didn't really learn anything about Halesworth bells that we didn't already know: now we just need some figures for how much it will cost to make them enjoyable to ring.

Finally, it was nice to be able to ring a quarter peal on the lovely-sounding bells at Chediston for the Team Evensong. Illness and band substitution meant we rang something more straightforward than originally planned, but that meant we did at least have some good ringing in places.

PJG

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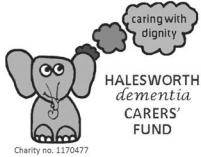
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Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund



May Film

On May 15th we shall be showing the film *One Life*, starring Anthony Hopkins. This very moving film tells the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton and how he saved hundreds of children from the Nazis in 1938-39. It will, as usual, be at The Cut, with doors opening at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Entrance by £5 donation.

Golf Day

On May 1st there will be a fund-raising Golf Tournament at Halesworth Golf Club. In addition to the golf, there will

May Events at Halesworth Library

On Thursday 23rd May at 7.30pm, Halesworth Library is hosting a talk by Simon K Jones, a writer based in Norwich, specialising in serial fiction, published weekly. His debut novel *A Day of Faces* won a Watty Award in 2016 and has over 190,000 reads. His newsletter goes out to over 3,500 readers each week with behind-the-scenes insights and tips on how to write serial fiction. Simon has spoken about serialisation at Primadonna Festival and for the National Centre for Writing. He has produced the Writing Life podcast for several years and has also taught for the BBC, FutureLearn, LinkedIn Learning and Access Creative. This talk is preceded at 6.30pm by the AGM of The Friends of Halesworth Library. Come along and learn about what the Friends group does to support the Library's role in the community.

Also taking place this month, there will be a quiz on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30pm, with quiz mistress Linda Sherman setting the questions, and on Saturday 25th May there will be a plant sale outside the library in the morning. If you have any cuttings or seedlings you can contribute, please bring them along on the morning.

All events will take place in Halesworth Library. Everyone is welcome. There will be a charge for the Quiz Night (registration forms will be available from the library nearer the time), but all other events are free, though donations to cover the cost of refreshments are appreciated. CD

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be a great raffle, with many prizes, and an auction. The main sponsors are Suffolk Car Sales, but we would be delighted to receive any other offers of sponsorship. We are most grateful to Halesworth Golf Club for putting on this event, and to John Giles, who has done so much work in planning and arranging it. If you would like to help in any way, or would like further details, please contact John on 07789 991046. For the more golf-minded, it will be a Texas Scramble, with a shot-gun start at 8am.

100+ Club

The Club now has 139 members, and we are aiming for 150 by June.

The winning numbers for April were: 21 (£100), 92 (£75), 9 (£50) and 17 (£25).

If you would like to join in, please call Anna on 07721 842802.

New Groups

I would like to remind you of our two new groups, both taking place at the Co-op Community Room each Friday.

From 12.30pm – 1.30pm there is Seated Tap Dancing with Garth, and new members are welcome.

Then, for those who are caring for loved ones with dementia, there is the Carers' Support Group that meets from 2pm – 3.30pm.

John Wood

Family Carers Support Group

Facilitated by

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund

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info@halesworthdementia.co.uk



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HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

I hope everyone who came along to our Annual Big Breakfast on Saturday 23rd March enjoyed their "full English". We thank you all for supporting us. With your help, we raised a fantastic £1441.68, every penny of which goes to fund the incredible work Cancer Research does, developing new treatments and diagnostic techniques as it works tirelessly to beat cancer.

We would like to sincerely thank the following businesses for contributing the food we served at the breakfast: Clarke's Butchers Bramfield, Halesworth Co-op, Halesworth Spar, Melons Greengrocers Halesworth and Tesco's.

Congratulations to everyone who won one of the lovely prizes in our raffle.

Now lots more *thank you's*: to Mumfords Southwold for supplying one of the lovely raffle prizes; to Holton & Blyford Village Hall for lending us a lot of their catering equipment and to John, for helping people with parking on the day; to everyone who baked for us, supplied a raffle prize, donated a food item or made the very pretty jam jars of flowers for the tables.

Our next event will be our Spring Fair on Saturday 18th May in Holton & Blyford Village Hall, (please see our advertisement on page 28). We will have all the usual stalls and we will be serving soup, our light lunches and delicious desserts from 11.30am. Please stay and have lunch with us, we will be serving our very popular ham and cheese Ploughman's, as one of the options. We will also serve tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.30am.

We are hoping to have a plant stall, so anyone who has green fingers please think of us and perhaps set a few extra seeds or take a few extra cuttings. We would be very grateful.

We apologise for the inconvenience, but all our events are cash only as we don't have access to a card machine.

We held our AGM on March 6th. All the officers were re-elected and the committee remains the same with the happy news that we welcomed two new committee members.

Dr Clarke, our Branch President, opened

the meeting and praised the advances being made by Cancer Research. Sophia France our Area Relationship Manager presented us with a cake and photograph celebrating our incredible fundraising achievements. We all enjoyed the cake at the end of the meeting. (Pictured below: Dr Clarke, Sophia France, Committee members and volunteers present at our AGM).

Later in March, three committee members met with the Ladies Captain at Halesworth Golf Club. As her nominated charity this year, she has chosen us and will raise money specifically for the Bobby Moore Fund via Cancer Research. If you are associated with the Golf Club, please support Cathy in her fundraising campaign. They have already completed one event. Well done ladies.

We have also been in contact with the Lowestoft keyboard group who are holding a concert on June 30th in Oulton Broad, in memory of their long-standing Chairman, who sadly passed away. The tickets, when they go on sale, will be £5 and the profits will be divided between the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research and the Parkinson's charity. Please support this event if you can.

It is with sadness that we learnt that another member of the Royal Family has received a cancer diagnosis. We wish the Princess of Wales a speedy recovery and a positive outcome. We also think of Prince William who has had to bear the news that both his father and wife were diagnosed within weeks of each other, that is shattering news for anyone.

Dawn Davis (Chair) 01986 873640



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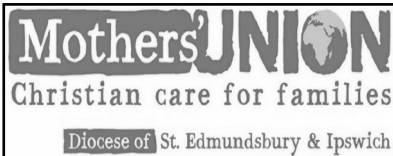
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Excerpts from
Transformation Now
April 2024
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No 249726

Do you know our next Diocesan Treasurer?

First, we need to pray that the right person will come forward to take up the role of Mothers' Union Diocesan Treasurer. Second, we need to think of someone in our family, circle of friends or church community who we could ask to be this diocesan treasurer. They do not have to be a member of the Mothers' Union, but they must be good with figures. Our finances are very healthy and thanks to Amanda, all organized and ready to pass on. All the information is on our website www.musuffolk.org

If not a Treasurer, then maybe you know our next Diocesan Secretary?

Beryl is standing down at the end of this year and would like to hand over to her successor as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition. Please stop and then think prayerfully if you know of someone who could fill this role. They do not have to be a member of the Mothers' Union. Details are on our www.musuffolk.org website.

Thank You

Mary Sumner House report that the 2023 Christmas Appeal, which focused on supporting our savings and skills work in Tanzania, raised £110,000; this included the match-funding we receive through the 'Big Give'. This is a small increase on the previous year. We are extremely grateful to all members and supporters for helping us to achieve this target.

A date for your diary: Thy Kingdom Come: May 9th – 19th Prayer is essential in the invitation of others to join us on our MU journey. Once again, MU will join in the prayer initiative, 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

We will pray from Ascension Day to Pentecost, May 9th -19th for five people in our network to come to know the Love of God and invite one of these five to a Mothers' Union event. This is our MU link:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/ThyKingdomCome>
for more information - resources will follow.

Prayers

This month we pray for all clergy and ministers in Hartismere, Hoxne and Saxmundham deanery.

We hold King Charles and the Princess of Wales in our prayers in their ongoing treatment for cancer.

We also pray for all our members who are undergoing surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer.

A prayer from our Mothers' Union Book of Comfort by Sue Norrington:

Lord of compassion, to you we commend all who are ill and in need of help.

You brought healing to the sick and vulnerable in your earthly life.

You promised to hear our prayers, you are a present help in times of trouble.

Come now we pray to all who are in pain and distress, who are uncertain and fearful.

That they may know your peace and healing touch.

Enfold them in your love for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer in Pastoral Ministry

Led by Sarah Wallington Smith and Revd Judy Miller



A workshop for anyone involved in pastoral care in their church and community.

Monday 20th May

7.30pm - 9pm

Co-op Community Room

Co-op Store, Saxon Way, Halesworth

IP19 8LU

For further details contact the Revd Alison Alder:
revalialder@gmail.com

Important Reminder

BVTimes Subscription Renewals for 2024-2025 are now due please!

For those BVTimes home delivery subscribers who wish to renew their subscriptions, please could you make your renewal payment asap.

2024-25 subscriptions will be valid from this issue (May'24) to the April'25 issue (incl).

Payment can be made to your local delivery person or to the BVTM office in St Mary's church Halesworth.

(The office is open on Tues and Thurs, 9am - 1pm).

Alternatively, the fee can be paid directly into the BVTimes bank account.

Barclays Bank. A/c: Blyth Valley Team Ministry. Account no: 13647579. Sort code: 20-53-06

Magazine delivery to your home, £12 per year.

Thank you!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK APPEAL, 12th – 18th MAY

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference. This is a week when we come together to raise funds, act and pray for our global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year, we are focusing on our work in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in Africa. Through the remarkable story of Aline, who overcame a long and difficult journey out of extreme poverty, we are aiming to support others in the same way. This begins with just a little support, knowledge and faith from Christian Aid supporters like you.

Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival

Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence.

Separated from her six children, she was forced to sleep on the streets of Burundi. No home. No healthcare. No security. But Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid.

Life in Burundi

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband.

A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

“I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.”

How Christian Aid stepped in

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

‘I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,’ says Aline.


She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kick-start small rural businesses. With all



she had learned, Aline’s dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

Come and hear how Aline’s recovery and resilience help her to build a business and a home where her children can thrive. With your support, more families can build reliable and diverse incomes that bring them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope.

Churches Together in the Blyth Valley Christian Aid Week service, Sunday 19th May, St Mary’s Halesworth. 3pm refreshments, 4pm service. All welcome.



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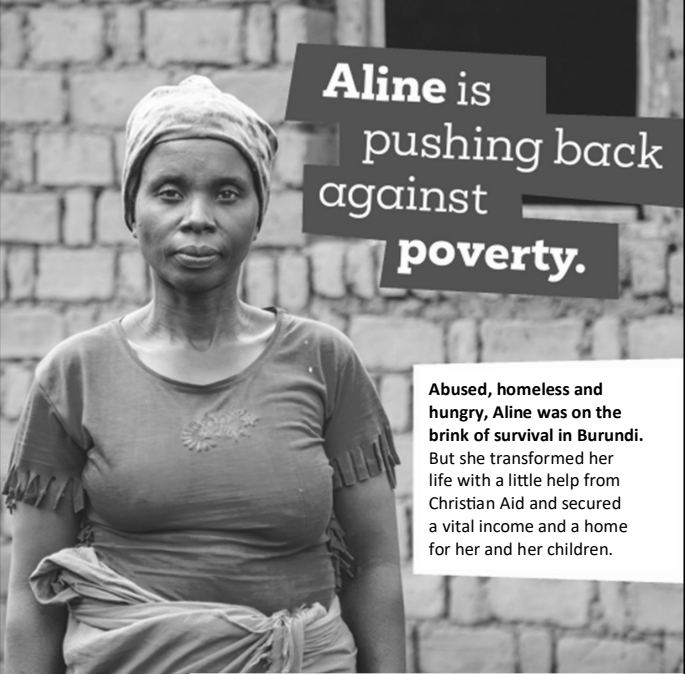
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Aline is pushing back against poverty.

Abused, homeless and hungry, Aline was on the brink of survival in Burundi. But she transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid and secured a vital income and a home for her and her children.

Churches Together in the Blyth Valley Christian Aid Week Service
Sunday 19th May
St Mary’s Halesworth
3pm refreshments - 4pm worship
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US
www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

christian aid

Café Church goes shopping for Kagera

This year during Lent the Café Church congregation followed the Bishops' themed booklet on life in Kagera, Tanzania, our link diocese. Each week we learned about life in this area of northern Tanzania and how the money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal is used to support the growing churches and the needs of the people. Each week our Café Church service used a bilingual English/Swahili liturgy, which was a thought-provoking experience. No doubt our attempts at Swahili would have caused much amusement in Kagera. We were particularly struck by the East African Masai Creed, which captures our faith in a simple and dramatic way:

An East African Masai Creed

We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created Man and wanted Man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the Earth.

This we believe.

We have known this High God in darkness, and now we know Him in the light. God promised in the book of His word, the Bible, that He would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

This we believe.

We believe that God made good His promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left His home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love.

This we believe.

He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but

the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, He rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

This we believe.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through Him. All who have faith in Him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the Good News to others until Jesus comes again.

We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

During Lent we discovered the joy and strength of the growing congregations in Kagera and the challenges they face as subsistence farmers living with the uncertainties of climate change. Priests and lay evangelists are not only trained for leadership and mission. They also learn agricultural skills to share with their congregations and to use for their own needs.

As part of this year's appeal, we were given a weekly shopping list to help us understand how the money from donations is spent. Our completed shopping list will be on display in St Mary's Church, Halesworth from the beginning of May. Copies of the list will be available for individual churches to display so congregations and visitors can see how we actively support work to counter global poverty and climate injustice.

Revd Alison



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Mary's church Halesworth, please?

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



Halesworth MEN'S SHED

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Telephone 01986 835905 or just call in

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



Halesworth Lions Club Swing Dance

Halesworth Lions are staging a 1940's & 1950's Summer Fun Swing Dance on Saturday 22nd June at the Holton & Blyford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

They will be welcoming back to the Village Hall the very popular DJ Flying Fortress, the Accordion Man, DJ Mama Sass and Sgt Bilko, accompanied by Miss Joyce Dee. The group entertained everyone at the Hall on Jubilee Day and for the Flushing Dance.

Dancers will be given some instruction on how to dance Swing and will lead others in the fun night. (The bar will be open).

Tickets are available by telephoning Sue on 01986 469515 or 07951 381407 and cost just £10 – including a delicious burger on the night!

It's a real welcome back to Halesworth Lions who have been helping people in the area for nearly 50 years. Raising over one million pounds during their period of help to the Halesworth area.

Lions International – a worldwide organisation help those in need who cannot help themselves. In our area, that can mean anything from a child who needs a movement sensitive mattress – to helping disabled youngsters to achieve their dreams. It all costs money – which needs to be raised by members of the Club.

If you would like to help local people in a fun way, raising money can be such a buzz – why not contact the Lions on either of the above numbers and find out more?

WM

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN APRIL FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Wendy Madeline Whatling at Halesworth
Betty Berry at Woodbridge
Joyce Evelyn Forster at Waveney Crematorium
Shirley Anne Shadbolt at Wenhaston
Joan Attridge at Chediston
Sally Ann Patricia Sparkes at Waveney Crematorium

Explore Holton's Labyrinth



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or meditate.*

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to reflect.*

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the natural world.*

*A place to make
connections.*

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The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



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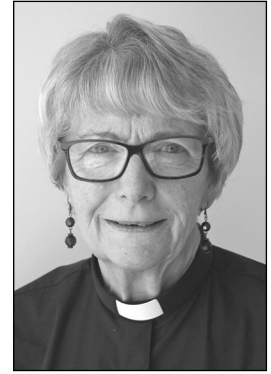
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Blyth Valley Team Ministry

has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.
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**Your donation goes
towards the work of the
BVTM across the Team**



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Heveningham	Jeanette Griffin	01986 798280
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Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
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News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent

Alison Cackett 01986 874442

acackett@me.com

Things are moving along at Blyford, we have three new officers, Treasurer (Christina Ballinger), Secretary (John Handley) and Fabric (Charlie Hawkins). I most grateful to them all for taking on these offices and making my life easier over the last six months.

I became involved with Blyford through my aunt who attended, and when we moved to Suffolk (20 years ago - is it that long?), we were welcomed with open arms. Both my aunt and uncle are buried in the churchyard.

I do, however, find that I must now resign as Churchwarden, I took over from Josie Forbes and Daphne, and learnt so much from them. With the new members of the PCC, I am sure that the church is in good hands. Both Geoff and I will continue on the PCC to support them through the next year, at least. We both feel now is the time for us to give time to ourselves so hence the decision.

We would both like to thank all the residents of Blyford for their support and particularly the PCC, past and present. If there are any budding Churchwardens out there, please let either me or Dominic know, I am happy to assist and advise, if you are interested.

There are no services in Blyford in May as we will both be taking a well earned holiday.

Blessings to you all. Alison and Geoff

Bramfield

Correspondent

Joanna Wilkinson

07986 217868

joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

On Saturday 13th April, Bramfield St Andrews PCC held a Coffee Morning and Jumble Sale in the village hall.

People were very generous with their donations of jumble and lovely home-made cakes and biscuits for the cake table, it looked a delicious spread. Sadly we inadvertently clashed with the good weather and the INK festival, as

our usually popular event wasn't very well attended. Still we did the best we could with what we had and managed to raise nearly £140 towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

It was a shame, as the hall looked lovely with pretty tablecloths and jars of wild flowers picked specially by the church warden. The people that did attend enjoyed the spread and we are very grateful to all those who were able to give their support. Special thanks to the village hall committee for letting us use the hall.

New Services in St Andrew's, Bramfield

We will be having a new service of Evensong on Sunday 12th May at 6pm with the Revd Linda Berry.

Also, we will be having a Morning Prayer at 10am on Sunday 26th May.

Do join us if you can, as we will be pleased to see you there.

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.



Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

The church was beautifully decorated at Easter so many thanks to all those who helped. This year the spring flowers were all out which helped. I have never seen the ditches so full of primroses which have now been taken over by the cowslips.

Some years ago, I was told by an elderly person that cowslips, in spite of smelling very good, usually meant that we were in for a chilly spring spell so perhaps that accounts for the bad weather we have now been having as I write these notes.

Anyhow, here's looking forward to a good summer (not too hot!) and lots of lovely events to look forward to including the Suffolk Show on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th May when the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, Martin Seeley will be the President.

Chediston & Linstead WI

This took place on April 9th, unfortunately our speaker was unable to attend, so Heather Vincent organised a quiz where we had to write down the plural of various animals, mammals and birds. One or two people excelled and the rest of us had much to learn. Tea followed. Next month on May 14th, we look forward to "Round the World in 102 days" by Robert Smith.

Eileen Webb

The funeral took place recently at Chediston of Eileen Webb who, with her late husband Jim, took an active part in village life when they lived at Saskiaville, a large bungalow where they also did bed and breakfast. Eileen was a superb cook and her guests never went to bed hungry! After retiring they had the smaller Whitwick built in the grounds & moved there. Jim died a while ago, but they made a superb team and will be remembered fondly.

Evensong Sunday 14th April

Chediston hosted the above service when we welcomed Dominic at 6pm, together with the Halesworth choir and not forgetting Jason who played for us. It was a lovely spring evening and we had well known and popular hymns, plus music for the responses courtesy of Jason which was quite magical. The bells were rung in a quarter peal (lasting 44 minutes) before the service by local ringers and conducted by the Team's ringing master, Philip Gorrod. We felt very fortunate as it was the only evening service throughout the Team. The church was nicely filled and the Easter flowers had lasted well. Drinks and nibbles were served at the back of the church after the service.

Veronica Downing writes:

April has been an active month for St Mary's Chediston. On Thursday 11th April the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place in the School Room

with wine and nibbles to enjoy with the formal business conducted through the Chair of the PCC, our Rector, Dominic Doble. This included the election of Churchwarden and PCC (Parochial Church Council) members and confirmation of the Church Electoral Roll – a list of lay persons residing in the parish who are eligible to vote for the churchwardens. Ideally, we should have two Churchwardens but Joanna Wareham was elected as the only Churchwarden willing and able to stand. Our PCC is currently made up of four members. David Newton is our Treasurer, Veronica Downing PCC Secretary, with Anne Greenough and Paula Hall. The Churchwarden, along with PCC members, have the responsibility to ensure that the church building and fabric is well-cared for, services of worship and other life events take place under the direction and supervision of the Team Rector and the church building is available as a community resource to host village activities and events. Although the PCC has been elected, it is possible for others to be co-opted and bring additional talents to the table. We are very grateful to the ordinary members of the village who came to support the APCM and offer ideas and feedback to support the PCC.

This month has also seen the installation of our new cashless means of charitable donating; a “CollecTin”, to tap and donate using credit and debit cards. We are very grateful to our Treasurer and Churchwarden who organised help and practical advice on enabling Wi-Fi in the church so that we can use a modern system to collect donations to replace the cash box at the back of the church. There is an option to Gift Aid the donation as well. Herne Hill Farm local honey is available at the back of the church at £5 a jar which is donated to church funds – a real bargain and delicious.

We are still awaiting the return of our refurbished Copeman Hart organ. The need for a faculty to fix the speaker system to the wall is holding the process up, but we are happy to report that the Diocesan Advisory Committee have agreed our application subject to statutory Planning Regulations that have to be competed before the organ can be returned and installed as a working instrument.

Keep your eyes open for information on the June 21st Suffolk Day activities in

Chediston. The Churchwarden and PCC extend a warm welcome to everyone who wants to use the church space for personal quiet time and reflection. We would of course love to see more people at our services too and for our lovely church to host more community activities. If you would like to get in touch with ideas, please contact our Churchwarden, Joanna Wareham or Church Elder, Veronica Downing.

Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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

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



Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby

01986 873336

halesworthparish@gmail.com

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.



55 of us enjoyed a feast of traditional song and dance, with music from around the British Isles and beyond. Folk songs, Morris tunes, country dances, and some of their own songs featuring East Anglian heroes and legends sung with ancient, traditional and modern instruments by Elizabeth

and Malcolm who make up ‘Chanter’s Jigge’. My favourite instrument being the hurdy-gurdy. We look forward to seeing them again in 2025! Just over £300 was raised from ticket sales and donations from the refreshments for PCC funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the evening.

Over four days, with 70 new short plays across ten venues in Halesworth, St Mary’s played host to the INK Festival for the first time known as ‘St Mary’s Playhouse’. The director and actors involved at St Mary’s loved the venue, the lack of running water and toilets not so much! We can take a lot of encouragement from being part of this year’s INK Festival. Clergy had to worship just a couple of feet higher to our Lord, on staging, but all is well. We hope to play host again in 2025.

On Sunday 14th April we welcomed baby Bonnie Rae Mitchell into the family of Christ. “God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body. We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you Bonnie” – If you missed the service you can catch up via our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

I was asked recently if anyone uses the contactless giving terminal in church. You may recall two and a half years ago, we were one of a handful of churches in Suffolk to be given (for free) a device as a trial. Since then, we have taken over £7000 in contactless giving. We also have a handheld device to take contactless payments, used recently for purchases of the book *Way of the Cross* and ticket sales at Chanter’s Jigge. The PCC is looking into a second device in church to catch people leaving through the south door. Thank you to everyone who gives through contactless giving.

Another busy month ahead with plenty going on. Highlights in May include the FoSM recital on Wednesday 8th and we welcome back to St Mary’s The Pakefield Singers on May 25th. Do take a look at the events page/2024 concert/event highlights page in this issue.

The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will take place on Wednesday 8th May, 6.30pm for tea/coffee, wine

and nibbles with the meeting starting at 7pm in St Mary's. This annual church meeting is where elections to various church roles take place and the annual accounts and reports from PCC sub-committees are presented. This is your opportunity to come and share, elect, and encourage everyone who works so hard behind the scenes of St Mary's to keep the doors open.

ST MARY 50/50 CLUB

Result of the April 50/50 draw: 1st prize: J Bainer; 2nd prize: P Cockerton; 3rd prize: D Hale.

HALESWORTH WI

A talk given by Mark, told us of the history and origin of the Thorington Theatre, based in a former WWII bomb quarry, it is a 350 seat open air venue. Constructed in 2020 with wooden seating surrounded by woodland and birdsong. The Theatre has gone from strength to strength since its opening. With this year two new speakers and an updated sound system. Refreshments available and parking with disability access also.

They are about to embark on their fourth season with a wide variety of entertainment. Success has grown year on year, with companies now approaching them to put on shows. The Theatre has won three awards recognising their contribution to tourism in the East of England.

Lindy then told us of the 2024 season's programme with returning favourites and some new talent to delight, this includes music and opera, Shakespeare and theatre, comedy, poetry and storytelling. Something for all ages. The show must go on and is rarely cancelled only in the most extreme weather. **BP**

Heveningham

Correspondent Jeanette Griffin
stmargarechurch11@gmail.com

April seems to have flown by and with the unpredictable weather, warm one moment, wind and rain the next, the grass, flowers and weeds are having a field day, literally! We have a couple of days planned to get stuck into some churchyard maintenance and hope that we will get some volunteers to come along and help. One of the things that is often mentioned by visitors is that the churchyard appears to be overgrown and access is hard to reach the graves towards the back. Some

parts of the graveyard are left wild to nurture the bees and insects but without help, it is hard to keep up the maintenance needed which is why any help from volunteers is really important.

In May, Dene and I will be attending a course on wildlife and churchyards, so hopefully we will get some good ideas on maintenance and providing a wildlife haven.

We held a coffee morning and book sale in April. This was attended well and we have had some wonderful donations of books. We still have a good selection available in church for a nominal donation. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the church.

Dates for May

1st: APCM, 7.30pm, at St Margaret's Church. Refreshments available from 7pm.

11th: 10.30am Coffee Morning and bric-à-brac sale.

12th: 10am Service Holy Communion Traditional service.

St Margaret's Church, Heveningham

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

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

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



Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett
01986 875913

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

Quite a lot has happened since last I wrote this column: we have celebrated Easter with the Revd Linda Berry leading our worship; we have welcomed Veronica Mowat as she was licensed, with Jim Green, as a Reader in the Blyth Valley Benefice at a service in St Mary's Church, Halesworth; and we have welcomed Veronica to St Peter's when she took her first service in the Team. We are so pleased to be able to welcome Veronica and Pam into the church family at St Peter's. It is lovely

to have so many positive things to report when the national and international news is so full of doom and gloom.

On April 17th, St Peter's held its Annual Parochial Church Meeting and, as is customary now, we gathered in St Peter's Room for drinks and nibbles at 7pm, before the meeting began at 7.30pm. Thanks must go to Mary Curtis who made her very moreish cheese twists, unsurprisingly they disappeared very quickly!

The Revd Dominic Doble chaired the meeting with Chris Knevett filling his role as PCC Secretary. The first task of the meeting was to elect Churchwardens - John Hewlett and Chris Knevett were elected, unopposed.

Apologies were received and written and verbal reports given of last year's activities. John Hewlett gave a verbal report on the state of our finances, which, like the curate's egg, are good in parts. The Fabric Fund is fine, but our income is not keeping up with expenditure. We only paid 76% of our Diocesan share, which puts the Diocese under pressure financially. The written accounts will be signed off, asap.

The next step was the election of Parochial Church Council members. The committee has shrunk considerably, and shrunk even more as Mary Curtis decided not to continue on the committee after many years of sterling service. Happily Fiona Pagan and Veronica Mowat have stepped forward and were welcomed with open arms: the committee now consists of Chris Knevett, John Hewlett, Janet Walkey, Fiona Pagan and Veronica Mowat, with Dominic as Chair. This is still too small a committee, so if anyone feels able to volunteer, the committee would be happy to co-opt you on!

John Hewlett continues to be our Deanery Synod representative, as there were no other candidates. Janet Walkey continues as our Team Council representative. Doug Mizon is our Examiner at present, but he is retiring this year, with our thanks for his efforts, particularly this year. Chris Knevett is continuing as the PCC Secretary. John Hewlett will continue to keep the accounts, but only until a new Treasurer is elected. Jackie Watts continues as our Electoral Roll Officer; the Electoral Roll stands at 30, down one from last year.

A big thank you to all who do so much to keep St Peter's a functioning, worshipping community.

The **Car Boot Sale** on the Paddock is on Saturday 4th May, from 10am, please come along to this major fund-raising event for St Peter's. There will be something for everyone, refreshments (cakes, scones, sausage rolls and other delights), a barbecue, raffle, church stall and, of course, all the car boots with their eclectic mix of things for sale.

Dates for Your Diary

The Labyrinth Event on Monday 6th May at St Peter's between 2pm and 4pm

The Children's Society Coffee Morning and Box Opening, on Saturday 6th July from 10am until 12 noon in church. If you usually help with refreshments or counting money or in any other way, please contact Janet Walkey on 01986 875594; new helpers are always welcome.

The Flower Festival on July 27th and 28th, from 10am until 4pm. Our theme this year is "Our favourite childhood stories".

Plant Sale, Sunday 19th May, 11am - 4pm at Huntingfield Hub, Huntingfield IP19 0QH

Many of the villagers are busy growing a wide range of plants; annuals, perennials and vegetables, which will be available to buy at amazing prices (One third of the price of garden centres). Card payments accepted. Come along, have a chat, grab some refreshments which will be available and take home some plants. You will also be supporting Huntingfield Millennium Green and East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

On Sunday 9th June, starting at 11am, we will be gathering to remember the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. It is an informal gathering with refreshments, lollies and even Spam Fritters available. You are invited to gather with picnics and family and friends. 'Dash Astro' Astronomical Society will be joining us to give a short Astronomy talk suitable for all ages. They will be bringing several Solar Scopes with them so that we can observe the Sun's Hot Spots and Solar Flares. This event is open to all so please come along and join in the fun. Dash Astro will start at 11am promptly.

whole county engloutie. Still, we survived and are now being reminded that Global Warming doesn't preclude a jolly cold April. What would we do without the English weather?

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DULY stopped at Linstead, where Jesus was scourged. Mercifully, it was just a pictorial scourging, but that was quite graphic. Thank you to all who attended. The canvas has now been returned to the Team office for safekeeping.

IT WAS A SLIGHTLY ODD EASTER, actually an extremely odd Easter, because there was no church service here. We had had an invitation to go away with the family and that seemed to be the cue for a service-less Easter at St Margaret's. Not quite sure why.

IF WE NEEDED REMINDING ABOUT the fragility of our parishes, the demise of St Peter's Linstead Magna is an object lesson. St Peter's, however, is not forgotten. We hope to resume the tradition of holding a biennial open-air service there on Sunday 16th June. If we follow precedent, we will, with the kind permission of Peter and Tracey Abell, meet at Church Farm, at about 2.30pm and then process to the actual site of the church for a short open-air service there at 3pm.

CHEDISTON & LINSTAD WI MET IN April and were supposed to learn about the Arts & Crafts Movement. However, the speaker cancelled and they were rescued by Heather Vincent, who just happened to have a couple of quite tricky quizzes in her handbag! They meet next in May at Linstead Village Hall, on Tuesday 14th May at 2.30pm. The speaker is Robert Smith and the members will learn how to get 'Round the World in 102 days'. So get your bags packed and ready.

THE SERVICE IN MAY IS MATINS ON Sunday 19th, at 10am.

**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.




**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.




Huntingfield
Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

A Big Thank You to everyone who came along to the Aurora Consort performance last month. The church filled up quickly and Vetta and her singers gave another beautiful performance of English music compositions. We wish them well as they head off to Venice to fill the Venetian Halls with their wonderful singing.

How lovely to be back in the garden surrounded by all the spring flowers and birdsong. If you are looking or thinking about Summer planting then let me invite you to a;

Linstead
Correspondent
Malcolm Heath 01986 785289
www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

IT IS A CURIOUS FACT THAT SPRING never fails to take us by surprise. Admittedly, we are relieved to find ourselves above water. There were moments when it seemed that we were gently sinking into the mire. Not so much a cathédrale engloutie as a

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

April showers, may come your way
Woodpecker has been in his tree trunk hole far more than he wishes to at this time of year. Rain, rain, rain. He's worried about the poor honey bees not willing to fly out and collect nectar from some of the rape in flower nearby. Still,

'They bring the flowers that bloom in May' and May is perhaps the best time to enjoy the 'wild' churchyard, with the wonderful cow parsley forming a froth over the greenery. A great place to come and enjoy the beauty of nature, as our Easter celebration continues until Pentecost (Whitsun) on May 19th.

'A right judgment in all things'

So we ask in the Collect (Book of Common Prayer) at Pentecost. Do join us for **Morning Prayer, May 19th at 10am**. There is a great deal in the world where right judgment is needed at the moment, thinking not least of the Middle East and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. A good time to reflect and pray for peace and goodwill in the world. You are always welcome to come into church and sit for quiet reflection, light a candle or leave a note for prayer if you would like. Look for the 'prayer arch' on the south side. A good place to sit for a while when the world seems a little mad, or our own lives can feel overwhelming.

Rogation Sunday

Being a wild animal, Woodpecker just thinks of nature all the time, and sees farmers busy sowing their late crops after so much rain. Rogation Sunday is May 5th, when there is a Team Eucharist at St Mary's, so do join in with that. In the afternoon of that day the Churchwardens appear to be going off for some sort of service in the Cathedral, so our annual **Rogation Walk** will be on **Sunday 12th May, beginning in Wissett at 2.30pm**. Look out for notices of where we begin. We finish with tea in Spexhall Village Hall. It is always a lovely walk, and a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for all that we enjoy in produce from the land, as well as the beauty of our part of the country.

The Village People

The Village People have at last got around to organising something! There will be a Spexhall Village Quiz Night on Friday 31st May, beginning at 7pm. Please bring your own 'picnic' and drinks. Tea and coffee will be provided. Tables of four, £3 a head. There will, of course, be the famous Fred Woods' raffle, so bring your items for 'regifting' that you got for Christmas! Booking through the Village Secretary Karen (karen1sharman@icloud.com or 01986 875451). More treats to come! Look for notices about a St Peter's Flower and Art Show in August, as well as an Italian

Lunch. This Woodpecker may find he has to squeeze through the tree trunk hole to his nest with all this food. Even talk of a wine tasting! What is happening! LOTS!

Thanks to all

By the time you read this Easter will seem a long way off, but it would be remiss not to thank all those who prepared the church so well for Easter. Cleaning, flowers, preparations, hymns (one unaccompanied!) and a lively congregation! Thanks to David who led the service, and to all who helped to make it a very happy celebration. The flag flew, and the bell got rung (eventually!). Happy Easter, and Happy Whitsun!

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

We will be reading this at the end of April/early May and, hopefully, spring will really be here... there is changeable weather for sure now, but our country churches are looking splendid with wildflowers a plenty in the churchyards, long may this continue!

Our APCM was held on April 13th and matters arising from that will be published next time.

We are all grateful to the Revd Dominic and the Team Ministry, and thank you all again for coming to Thorington, taking services, advising etc. and to everyone, we extend a warm welcome to a special place tucked away just south of Wenhaston.

If there is any more information you need, do contact me, Trish Gower 01502 478078.

Walpole

Correspondents

Lee & Anita Hill 07713 450078
anita.hill2006@gmail.com

St Mary's Church, Walpole

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

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



Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield
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St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

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

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



We celebrated Easter at St Peter's starting with a very moving meditation led by Alison and Linda.

On Easter Sunday, there was a goodly congregation to mark our Lord's resurrection.

The church was beautifully decorated with lilies and Spring flowers. Many, many thanks to our flower arrangers who always make the church look so lovely.

The weekend concluded with Easter Teas in church which was very successful. Thank you to all who provided cakes and helped on the day. We are very grateful.

Our APCM was on April 16th, when we reviewed the church year and elected members to the PCC. We are very grateful to Jonathan for carrying on as Churchwarden and for all that he does, and to the other members for their support.

In May we have our Plant Sale on the Saturday 11th at 10.30am. I am sorry I am always appealing for help, but we should be very grateful for any plants, cakes or raffles prizes, as well as help on the day. We are a small band of people and couldn't manage without all your generous help.

May Services

- May 5th 10am, Team Service, St Mary's, Halesworth.
- May 12th 10am, Ecumenical Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth.
- May 19th 10am, Holy Communion.
- May 26th 10am, Pause for Thought.

Wenhaston Walkers

Our first walk in May will take place on Tuesday 7th (the day after the Bank Holiday) leaving Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

On Tuesday 21st May, we set off at 10am from the Queen's Head, Bramfield IP19 9HT. Park on the main road or on the road to Walpole wherever there is space. The walk will be on public footpaths and permissive paths on Earlsway Farm. The lunch menu is changing and will be circulated shortly. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email:

ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

WENHASTON M U

We were very pleased to welcome Anji and Chris Dawkins to our March meeting to tell us about their seven trips to the Diocese of Kagera as the MU co-ordinating Diocesan link from St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese. Anji and Chris decorated the Methodist Chapel, where we meet, with the very colourful cloths which are made by the people in the area. It was an extremely interesting afternoon and we saw slides and heard much of the life of these people. Extremely poor and living in a very simple way, for example having to carry water, often

for many miles. I think that the message that came across to me and to other members was that, in spite of all their difficulties, they are such a happy band of people. I felt that we have much to learn from them.

A very different subject at our May meeting, Jackie Richardson will tell us all about Tortoises!

Margaret G. 01502 478378

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

Our meeting on April 2nd was a new format for us. Three of our talented members demonstrated for us. The members split into three groups and during the evening we rotated round all three demonstrators.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this new idea and appreciated the work the ladies put into the evening.

After visiting Japan and taking part in a class there, Beverly demonstrated the art of Japanese flower arranging, Ikebana.



Alison demonstrated a beautiful inexpensive heart woven with ivy which could be adapted for any occasion.



Diane demonstrated how the use of moss could be used instead of floral foam to hold flowers in place in her arrangement and how to make a twig arbor that again could be adapted for any occasion.



Our next meeting on Tuesday 7th May will be in Wenhaston Village Hall at 7.30pm, as usual.

We welcome back Moira who will be doing a workshop for us. Moira will be showing us how to make a Beargrass Spiral or a Hand Tie. Items required will be listed in the newsletter, or contact Jackie.

The cost is still only £5, payable on the night and will include tea/coffee/biscuits. Donations of raffle prizes are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester

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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.



Well!! As I type, the rough winds do shake the darling buds of May and are ripping off leaves and lilac flowers. Hopefully, by the time this is printed, we will be enjoying something more lovely and more temperate.

We hope for calm on the weather front here in Wissett on May 6th, as we will have the popular Plant Sale from 10.30am to 12.30pm, in aid of St Andrew's Church Wissett. It will be in the marquee on the village field as our Village Hall is out of use, as the floor recovers from last October's flood damage. Vegetable plants, shrubs, annuals, perennials, heritage tomatoes will all be on sale and coffee and biscuits will be served [somehow, somewhere]. I have some good biscuits ready for it tucked away in my secret cupboard, so do come!

Isn't May a busy month in the Christian calendar! Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and, of course, Rogation. Celebrated this year with our Spexhall friends and neighbours on Sunday 12th May. It will start at 2.30pm from Lodge Farm, up Lodge Lane from the Church, then on to Spexhall Church.

Rogation from "Rogare" {so I have been told} to ask, beseech God for protection from calamities. We ask for God's blessing for our farms, workers, crops and countryside.

Hopefully like Wordsworth we will hear birds sing as we walk together.

"Then sing ye Birds, sing, sing a joyous song!

And let the young Lambs bound
As to the tabor's sound!

We in thought will join your throng,
Ye that pipe and ye that play,
Ye that through your hearts to-day
Feel the gladness of the May!"

A recent visitor to Wissett church told me how beautifully our brass was kept, all shining bright! As ever thanks to all who help maintain and care for our church building. In the merry month of May the cleaning rota is:

5th: Anne Andrews and Maureen Stoddard

14th: Tanya Baker and Anne Withers

19th: Kathleen Witherby

26th: Charlotte Pringle and Jane Parry

Thank you to all who help us share life's joys and fears together in our church and in our community.



The
Pear Tree Fund

Popular pub smashes through £10k target

Staff at the Queen's Head at Bramfield are celebrating after smashing through an ambitious target to raise more than £10,000 for a much-loved local charity.

The popular pub chose the Pear Tree Fund as its charity of the year in 2019 after hearing about the support it offers to vulnerable local people. However, its staff and customers took the fund to their hearts and have continued to raise money for the charity ever since, with the total now standing at an impressive £10,598.

They have raised the money by holding a huge variety of activities, including musical bingo evenings, race nights, food tastings, raffles and a fashion show. A dedicated member of staff even ran the virtual London Marathon to raise funds during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most recently, the pub converted its restaurant into a full-sized pop-up charity book shop, raising £1,184 to help the Queen's Head smash through the £10,000 barrier.

Kate Wood, owner of the Queen's Head, said: "We're delighted that we have been able to continue supporting the Pear Tree Fund and raise more than £10,000 for them. We are eternally grateful to our wonderful customers who continue to support our work. Their generosity has been amazing."

Lucy Smith, Pear Tree Fund trustee, said: "We are absolutely blown away by the fantastic sum raised for us by the dedicated staff at the Queen's Head and their kind-hearted customers. We would like to say a huge thank you to every single person who has supported the activities arranged by the staff.

"Their generosity really will make a huge difference to local people when they need it the most."

To find out more about the Pear Tree Fund and how you can support the charity, visit www.peartreefund.org



The next
**CHILDREN'S TOY
and**

CLOTHING EXCHANGE

will be held on

WEDNESDAY 29th MAY

in

St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

Donations can be left in the church from
Monday 27th May.

For further details contact:

Revd Alison Alder

07584 416277 / 01502 478855.

Email: revalialder@gmail.com



Staff from the pub with a charity cheque.
Kate Wood, landlady at the Queen's Head, pictured front left.

FoSM review of the recital by the Aurora Consort on Saturday 6th April

MY SPIRIT SANG - Time-travel with us through the glories of English a cappella

How often do you hear soaring voices of the highest quality reach to the very top of our wonderful 15th century tower? How often to be able, on a lovely spring day, to listen to a concert with such an interesting, varied and uplifting repertoire? It may be thought by some, that a cappella music is secondary to that which is accompanied. If you needed proof to the contrary, this was the concert to have attended! The human voice, our original instrument, has tremendous power, agility and emotion.

Vetta Wise, who directs the ensemble, not only chose music which traversed 500 years of English unaccompanied music, but also made full use of the talents of the choir to sing in both simple and complex harmonies, and sometimes for single voices to soar over the harmonies beneath.

Many of us are familiar with the Renaissance music of Tallis and Weekes, but adding Stanford's *Beati Quorum* made for a fascinating insight into how a 19th century composer brings back harmonic structures of the 15th and 16th century. Tavener's *The Lamb* is somehow transformative to a realm beyond, and a joy to hear a female composer: Poston's *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*. A member of the choir, Christopher Upton's work based on a portion of the Greek Liturgy, made for a fitting part to this section of the concert.

Among the secular music the love song *Since First I Saw Your Face* brought us to the beauty and longing found in the English madrigal tradition. Holst and Finzi, two of the great collectors and interpreters of English Folk songs were represented, with Holst's *I Love My Love*, a Cornish folk song, bringing a melody of the West Country to the East of England. To hear Stanford's *The Blue Bird*, with the soaring top line of the single soprano (Janet Upton), was just beautiful.

The final song was written by our very own local composer Alex Campkin, who was commissioned to write a piece for Vetta's birthday, with words by her sister-in-law. It has an obvious special place for the conductor, but Alex's work goes beyond the personal to the universal. How privileged we were to hear the first Suffolk performance of this piece.



The Consort are taking this concert on a tour of venues in Venice, and we were privileged to be given a free preview performance. How lucky! We wish them well on their tour. And how fortunate to be so well catered for by the Friends of St Mary's. This Friend reviewer, recommends the concerts to all, and, of course, recommends becoming a Friend to a church which has been the spiritual heart of Halesworth for hundreds of years, but which also offers an opening to talent from all the arts in this lively market town.

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A note on the readings: Generally, harmonising Gospel texts is not encouraged, since each writer had varied theological, spiritual and social reasons for what he included. However I have harmonised the Passion texts here, as some additional details enrich their meaning.

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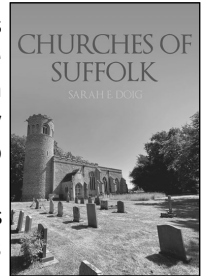
In Selig Suffolk

When in April the sweet showers fall
 And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all
 The veins are bathed in liquor of such power
 As will bring on the engendering flower,
 When also Zephyrus with his sweet breath
 Exhales an air in every grove and heath
 Upon the tender shoots, and the young sun
 His half-course in the sign of the *Ram* has run...
 ... Then people long to go on pilgrimages ...
 ... And specially, from every shire's end
 In England, down to Canterbury they wend
 To seek the holy blissful martyr, quick
 In giving help to them when they were sick.

Well, the climate must have been milder and the weather more reliable when Chaucer wrote this in the 14th century! But today, as I write this, the sun is shining, the wind has dropped somewhat and rain is not expected until the evening, and I have booked yet another Covid-19 booster jab so no need to invoke "the holy blissful martyr". On such a day as this it is, or would be, a pleasure to drive to somewhere pretty and interesting for the afternoon, perhaps make it a project this year to do so regularly, weather permitting, a modern-day mini pilgrimage maybe. **Churches of Suffolk**, by Sarah E Doig could be a useful companion for such a pilgrimage. This book

is not comprehensive, the author confines herself to 50 of her favourite notable churches and admits omitting Wenhaston and Lavenham, and I note our own St Mary the Virgin is nowhere to be seen (perhaps to come in a second volume?).

But it is lavishly illustrated by the author's lovely coloured photographs, the text is informative and suitable for history buffs, "church crawlers", and pilgrims. Apparently Suffolk boasts the greatest number of Domesday churches of any county: not for nothing was it known as "selig Suffolk"- blessed Suffolk, and for many of us it still is.



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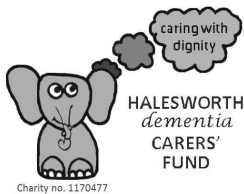
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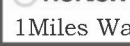
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Wednesday, 8 May
6.30pm

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)
6.30pm for tea/coffee, wine & nibbles with the meeting starting at 7pm

Saturday, 18 May
11am-4pm

East Suffolk Travel Association AGM

Sunday, 19 May
3pm for 4pm

Churches Together Christian Aid Service
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Saturday, 25 May
7.30pm

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Wednesday, 26 June
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