

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

August 2025 Volume 46 Issue 8

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# Our Deacon is ordained



Above: On Saturday 28th June, our Curate Edmund, was one of 13 people during services deaconed Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds in front of families, friends and parishioners. Ipswich, Woodbridge, Haverhill, Finborough, Saxmundham and Wickham Market are among the other communities to benefit from these new ministries.

Right: On Sunday 29th June at St Peter's Holton, our joint Petertide Communion welcomed Edmund.



Take a look inside this month's BVTimes magazine for local news items and details of services and events happening across the Blyth Valley Churches and further afield.

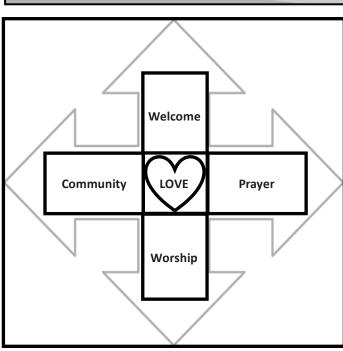
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#### **August 2025 Lectionary**

#### Sunday 3rd

Traditional Communion – Seventh Sunday after

#### Trinity (Green)

Rom. 6.19-end (KJV) Mark 8. 1-10a (KJV)

#### Holy Communion – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

#### (Green)

Hos. 11. 1-11 (NRSV) Luke 12. 13-21 (NRSV)

#### Sunday 10th

# Traditional Communion – Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Rom. 8. 12-17 (KJV) Matt. 7.15-21 (KJV)

# Holy Communion – Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Isa. 1.1, 10-20 (NRSV) Luke 12.32-40 (NRSV)

#### Sunday 17th

# Traditional Communion – Ninth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 Cor. 10. 1-13 (KJV) Luke 16. 1-9 (KJV)

# Holy Communion – Ninth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Isa. 5. 1-7 (NRSV) Luke 12.49-56 (NRSV)

#### Sunday 24th

# Traditional Communion – Tenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 Cor. 12. 1-11 (KJV) Luke 19. 41-47a (KJV)

# Holy Communion – Tenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Jer. 1.4-10 (NRSV) Luke 13.10-17 (NRSV)

#### Sunday 31st

# Traditional Communion – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

1 Cor. 15. 1-11 (KJV) Luke 18. 9-14 (KJV)

# Holy Communion – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Jer. 2. 4-13 (NRSV) Luke 14. 1, 7-14 (NRSV)

#### SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

10am Holy Communion, every Wednesday. 8am Traditional Communion, every Sunday. 6pm Evensong, most Sundays.

August 2025			Valley in Assessed 2025		rages
	1		Valley in August 2025	1	1
CW – Year C	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Continuous	CW & BCP -	CW & BCP – Eighth	CW & BCP – Ninth	CW & BCP – Tenth	CW & BCP -
New Testa-	Seventh After	After Trinity	After Trinity	After Trinity	Eleventh
ment	Trinity	·	-	,	After Trinity
	(Green)	(Green)	(Green)	(Green)	(Green)
	(diceil)	(diccii)	(diceil)	(diceil)	Gicciij
Halaamanth	Ones Traditional	Oom Tue ditienel	Oom Tueditienel	Oans Tueditienel	
Halesworth	8am Traditional	8am Traditional	8am Traditional	8am Traditional	
St Mary	Communion	Communion	Communion	Communion	
	Dominic	Dominic	Dominic	Dominic	
	10am	10am Breakfast	10am	10am	
	Holy	Church	Iona Worship	Holy Communion	
	Communion	Edmund and Pauline	Jason	Linda	
		Edinuna and Pauline	Jason	Lifida	
	Dominic				
	6pm		6pm	6pm	
	Evensong		Evensong	Evensong	
	Dominic		Dominic	Dominic	
	Dominic		DOMINIC	Dominic	
St Peter Group					
Holton		10am		10am	1
St Peter		Morning Prayer		Holy Communion	1
		Veronica M		Dominic	1
Wenhaston		10am Ecumenical	10am	10am Pause for	
St Peter		Communion St Peter's	Holy Communion	Thought	
Jt i etei		Alison A	Linda	Margaret	
			Liliua		
Bramfield		10am		10am	
St Andrew		Holy Communion		Morning Prayer	
		Dominic		Alison C	
Blyford			10am		
All Saints			Wild Church Jim		
Thorington				10am Morning	
St Peter				Prayer Edmund	
				Flayer Lumunu	
St Andrew Grp					
Wissett			10am Morning	6pm Evensong	
St Andrew			Prayer Edmund	Edmund	
Chediston		10am		10am	
St Mary		Holy Communion		Morning Prayer	
Je ,		Linda		Veronica D	
Cmaykall		Liliau		7 CT OTTICA D	10000 11-1-
Spexhall					10am Holy
St Peter					Communion
					Dominic
Linstead				10am	1
St Margaret				Matins Malcolm	
St Michael Grp					
Cookley		6pm Choral Evensong	9.30am		
St Michael		with Elder	Traditional		1
J. HIGHAEI		Commissioning and	Communion		1
		_			1
		Rector Installation	Desmond		
		Archdeacon Rich			1
		Henderson			
Heveningham		10am Pet Service			
St Margaret		Jim			1
	1			10am	1
Huntingfield					•
Huntingfield					
Huntingfield St Mary				Morning Prayer	
St Mary				Morning Prayer Chris and Gary	
_				Morning Prayer	

**Additional Services:** 

9.30am Thursdays, Morning Worship, St Andrew's Bramfield. 10am Wednesdays, Holy Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth.

#### Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston
Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan
27 Meadow Gardens, Beccles, NR34 9PA.
Tel: 07921 540170

#### **AUGUST SERVICES**

3rd The Revd Martin Keenan HC
10th US @ St Peter's - 10am
17th The Revd Iain McKillop
24th Local Arrangement
31st Mrs Julie Warren

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am (unless stated otherwise)

**ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE** 

#### **St Edmund King & Martyr**

Roman Catholic Church, Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

#### **Father Christopher Smith**

Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk
Please enquire about our Service times and details



# **Morning and Evening Prayer**

with the Revd Dominic Doble, from Tuesdays to Saturdays (Live streamed and later audio on Dominic's YouTube channel).

From St Mary's Church, Halesworth

In person, or join via:

8am Morning Prayer
Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092
Passcode - 607673

6pm Evening Prayer
Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304
Passcode - 825686

#### Halesworth & Bramfield URC

#### Minister: Revd Jon Sermon SERVICES FOR AUGUST

**SERVICES FOR AUGUST** Friday 1st 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning Sunday 3rd 11am Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon Communion Monday 4th 7.30pm Last Alpha Session "How can I make the best of the rest of my Life?" Tuesday 5th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Friday 8th Zoom followed by Coffee Morning Sunday 10th 11am Gathered Worship. Elizabeth 3pm Bramfield Chapel Tuesday 12th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship Friday 15th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom followed by Coffee Morning Sunday 17th 11am Gathered Worship TBA Tuesday 19th 10am to 12noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Friday 22nd

Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 24th 11am Gathered Worship *TBA*Tuesday 26th 2.30pm Elders' Meeting

Friday 29th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and

Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
11am Gathered Worship Minister Jon

Sermon

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761 jon@sermons.me.uk Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

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



Sunday 31st

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

Paptism

As baptism for me and my child?

Wednesdays from 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 11:30 am for 4 weeks.

Join us for stories, songs and discussions with you and your child as we discuss baptism.

# From the Rector...

I am inspired to say thank you in my opening piece this month. This is not, I repeat not, because I have only just got round to writing my Christmas thank you letters! Was that an annual discussion in your childhood experience? I would have preferred to cancel Christmas to avoid the interminable guilt engendered by this unfortunate hangover. Thank yous can also be difficult at AGMs or staff meetings. We, the pretty ones and the favoured ones, can get the accolades; while the ones that actually do the work remain unmentioned, overlooked and unmotivated. Then of course you get those of us who are so unused to gratitude or recognition that we are reduced to tears when anyone so much as sends a wink or a nod in our general direction. That is if our internal voices allow us to clock it in the first place.

Nevertheless, thank you! Thank you to all of you who are simply visiting our churches. Whether you are sheltering from the weather or from life, using the wall as a bike stand, looking at the ceiling or rummaging in the long grass for the long forgotten name of a long lost relative or pirate! Yes, someone recently wrote looking for a pirate's last resting place in Linstead. Thank you to our ministers. Some of whom have undergone academic training, selection panels, presented portfolios, and Safeguarding checks and courses. Then for their pains write sermons, visit people in their homes, plan services and Eco Church certification, run Tots groups, teach faith, take assemblies and funerals. Thank you to the local organisations that work with and support us. Some examples of these include: the Spa, East Suffolk Community Rail Partnership, Halesworth Town Council, the Men's Shed, Halesworth Volunteers, Community News, the Waveney Foodbank, Beech House, Halesworth Area Sustainable Hub, and the Ink Festival to name but a few. Thank you to our Churchwardens, Treasurers, Secretaries and other committee members, those on the Joint Council, Deanery and Diocesan Synod. Many of you wear multiple hats, many going above and beyond the call of duty: applying for internal planning permissions, liaising with performers, responding to wedding enquiries, tree surgeons and architects, dealing with fees, providing refreshments, doing the dishes, writing minutes and condolence letters, applying for funding, flying the flag down the club, in the mag and on the socials.



JEWELLERS

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www.halesworthtown.co.uk/densons-jewellers



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People aside, thanks to God can be tricky too! When we say thank you are we merely showing off how successful we are in our circumstances. 'Thank you that my five children are all in lucrative careers, beautiful relationships and fit and well. Amen.' It's a great prayer, but where does that leave those who are childless or have lost a grandchild to the river? Then how can we be thankful even within our own personal grief, let alone as citizens with shared responsibility for fractured communities, the racism endemic in the middle east and the global melt down of environment, trade and law. One answer at least may be found in Psalm 9. Here the writer intersperses declarations of thanks amongst statements that may be aspirations or examples of why that thanks is or will be deserved. 'I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will tell of all your wonderful deeds' (v1). 'The needy shall not always be forgotten' v18. This is one of the great things about thankfulness.

So sometimes despite our misgivings, and in the face of interminable guilt, we just need to decide to say thank you. This reminds me of a birthday card I had once. It said broadly; though in slightly more robust language, which made it all the funnier: 'Smile! It unsettles people!'. Being thankful can be counter cultural. It is a profoundly spiritual calling. We may cause people to grumble as they anticipate and or wait for us as we insist on thanking as many people as we can as often as we can. However, it is one of those skills that wins friends and influences people by making us feel noticed, loved and valued. Yet, it can generate an attitude of gratitude if we decide that, after all, we really ought to keep Christmas and like me, really should get on with our thank you letters. Maybe even slightly earlier than the summer holidays next year! Thank you!

**Dominic** 



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If you are a member of a group or organisation and you would like to share your monthly news, reports or activities with the local community, please email your articles to Blyth Valley Times: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

HALESWORTH

COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

#### HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon - Minister

**Dear Friends** 

You may have seen this from my report in June's edition of BVTimes: We have committed to partner with the Charity, Through Faith Missions in the 'Awake' Suffolk Coastal Mission. We are really excited.

This takes place Saturday 6th - Sunday 14th September 2025. Although that may still seem a way off, planning, preparation and prayer has been intensive. All the events are for everyone and we will really welcome folk from our sister churches coming and inviting others.



A team of volunteers will be with us for the actual week and there will be events and activities almost every day.

Lets all share in this wonderful opportunity for the Gospel to impact others.

We will also run the Alpha Course as a follow-up. That, again, will be a great opportunity to invite your contacts to come

For those who don't know, Alpha is a basic introduction to the Christian Faith. It is presented with video input on subjects like:

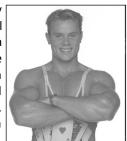
Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? Does God heal today?

There is small group discussion with the opportunity to raise any questions.



Exciting News: The launch events on Saturday 6th September start with a lunchtime BBQ and the major evening event is with a Christian Celebrity speaker. We are delighted that JB Gill (JLS, Strictly Come Dancing and Regular TV presenter) will be with us: JB talks about his life, career and faith. It will be engaging and encouraging.

Later in the week, we will be joined by Warren Furman - not such a well known name, but Gladiators is back on screens. Warren was a star in the original series, known as 'Ace'. He has a powerful testimony about fame and fortune having proved not to satisfy, but since then finding fulfilment in relationship with Jesus Christ.



There will be many more events, including a chance to 'grill Christians' with no questions off limits.

I do hope that this will be an inspiration, and a blessing, not only to our folk and those they bring, but to the whole town. And including you and those you bring!

**Blessings** 

Ton

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



also Chair of Trustees: Romans 1.11 Trust

#### Our MPs know we want them to Act Now, Change Forever

Members of the Blyth Valley Churches, were amongst the 5000 people who descended on Westminster to ask their MPs to Act Now, Change Forever for climate and nature on Wednesday 9th July.

The photo above shows Alison and Jonathon Alder, along with Jim and Sue Green talking with Adrian Ramsay, the Waveney Valley MP.



Photo: Alison Alder

Together, we asked MPs to back bold, practical action by committing to:

- 1. Deliver vital funding to communities hit hardest by climate change here and around the world
- 2. Cut bills, back UK jobs, and secure a greener fairer future for all
- 3. Restore nature to create a safer, healthier future
  Green Christian added a fourth: sign the <u>Climate and Nature</u>
  <u>Bill Early Day Motion</u> and the <u>Stop Rosebank Pledge</u>.

The amazing thing was that it seems that the government has listened.

On Monday 14th July, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband , with the Environment Secretary, Steve Reed present, delivered the first of an annual Climate and Nature Statement in Parliament.

The Statement was promised by the Government in the build up to the Climate and Nature Bill's second reading in January. There is also a new report and a written statement outlining actions on climate and nature agreed by the Government with CAN Bill champion, Roz Savage MP.

Not only that, but Ed Miliband thanked the CAN Bill campaigners, and offered to meet with them to work together in order to 'take forward discussions'.

There is a link to the statement here:

# https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002g2fs/house-of-commons-state-of-climate-and-nature-statement

Jim said 'It was good to meet up with old friends and new, to share our hopes together. It was also good to meet with

# LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JULY

#### FUNERALS/ASHES INTERMENT

Joan Barnard at Spexhall Peggy Woolnough at Bramfield

#### BAPTISM

Max Danyal at Halesworth

Adrian, our MP and to thank him for the work he is doing to support the Climate and Nature Bill.'

Sue said, "Its so encouraging to see that constituents can make a difference, and that this Bill now has a real chance of becoming law.".

Zero Hour, the campaigning group behind the Climate and Nature Bill has growing support and emphasises the cobenefits of taking action including cheaper bills, well paid green jobs, cleaner air and rivers and better insulated homes. Supporters of the CAN Bill include 1200+ scientists, 387 councils, 250 parliamentarians, 75000 campaigners, trade unions and faith leaders.

Beyond the meetings, Westminster came alive with colour and energy. Banners, placards and artwork filled the streets and, of course, the iconic Parliament Square. The Faith Space held a panel discussion between Canon Giles Goddard from Faith for the Climate, Amandeep Maur Khan from EcoSikhUK and Jonathan Wittenberg of EcoJudaism.

Ruth Jarman of Green Christian came with three members of her church. "There was a wonderful buzz in Westminster Hall with so many groups from all over the country asking for the protection of God's world"

The exciting thing about the lobby is that this isn't the end of the story. A nationwide Lobby Week is happening 13 - 20 September - and you're invited to be part of it. It's your opportunity to meet your decision maker locally: in your community, on your terms. You'll have a chance to continue the conversations we started in July, whether you were in Westminster or not.

There are also plans to connect individuals and groups to campaign in their local area. There are more details on all this on the Green Christian, Zero Hour or Climate Coalition websites.

Jim Green



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

Just call one of our partner agencies:
Citizens Advice National Helpline
0808 208 2138
South Norfolk Early Help Hub
01508 533933
Halesworth Volunteers - 01986 875600

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

#### ADDITIONAL FOODBANK DONATION POINTS

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

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



Editorial extracts from MU Newsletter No 66 July 2025 www.musuffolk.org.uk Charity No 249726

Bibles for HMP Highpoint: Thank you for all the bibles that have been donated to HMP Highpoint, they now have enough. A new request is for copies of The Action Bible; God's redemptive story by Sergio Cariello, as it is easier to read compared to traditional bibles. You can order from Amazon, who are a trusted supplier to the prisons. Please make the Revd Wendy Norris aware of your order: wendy.norris@justice.gov.uk

#### News from our branches

Fressingfield branch has had a Souls of our Shoes display that has been placed in several locations in the benefice as well as the church. The Rector spoke of how she had been very impressed and moved by the Souls of our Shoes exhibit in the porch at Fressingfield Church. She presented Christine with the Bronze RISE-UP award certificate and read the commendation to the congregation. Several MU members were there and the congregation applauded.

The **Cathedral branch** had a most successful Garden Party last month with stalls, excellent refreshments and the rain that had come down that morning like cats and dogs held off, with the sun showing the occasional appearance. The branch raised £815 for Mothers' Union funds.

**Woodbridge Mothers' Union** had invited many guests to their cream tea on June 12th and raised. £243. The MU e-Pop up shop did very well, and DP Jeanette was able to take this opportunity to present Jean Cobb with the branch's RISE -UP bronze award for raising awareness of domestic abuse.

**Summer of Hope:** The theme for the Summer of Hope Appeal this year is to bring gifts of peace to communities across the 84 countries where MU has a presence. Your Afternoon tea events are not only about raising funds but



# **NO BAD FEET**

Susan Fitch, A.H.C.P.

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BY APPOINTMENT

also opportunities to bring friends who have yet to join MU, whether as a member or a Friend.

# 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union

Here is a list of National Celebrations which you can join, with more information on the central website www.mothersunion.org.uk

150th celebratory service in St Paul's Cathedral, 7pm, 10th June 2026; Annual Gathering at Emmanuel Centre (next door to Mary Sumner House, 11th June 2026; MU Sunday takeover; A Big Picnic; 150th MU Song and Prayer Book.

So far, the following events have been planned in our diocese: Lady Day service and anniversary celebration in Ipswich Minster, 2pm Wednesday 25th March; A fund-raising challenge from MSH to raise £1,500 from a start-up grant of £150 from MSH.

Mary Sumner Day 9th August: Have you thought who you, as a Mothers' Union member, could invite for morning coffee or afternoon tea, to tell them how the Mothers' Union is making a difference? Not forgetting to mention that they can join as a member or a friend. Membership in the UK has now reached a critical level. Just as in a relay race, we need to have people ready to hand over the baton to, so that the important work of Mothers' Union can continue.

#### Save the date

Grandparent Day: Saturday 6th September at Fressingfield Baptist Church, School Lane Suffolk IP21 5RU. The theme of the event is to affirm, support and encourage grandparents of faith. The day starts with refreshments and worship and includes a key note talk, panel discussion and a choice of workshops; featuring prayer-based art reflection, mindful activities to share with grandchildren and a new workshop for grandparents who have grandchildren with special needs. To book your place, email: jeanetteappleton91@gmail.com

A Feast of Music: Friday 19th September, 7.30pm at Barham Church. Come along and be entertained, and eat cake. Free entry with a retiring collection for Mothers' Union projects.

**September is 'Bake and Make' month:** The aim is to take our cakes and items we make and go outside the church so as to raise funds and the profile of Mothers' Union with a new group of people.

Praise, Prayer and Healing Service: Saturday 18th October, 3pm at St Felix Church Rendlesham. Refreshments after the service. There is plenty of parking nearby and level access.

**Autumn Council Meeting:** The date has changed to Tuesday 28th October but the time and venue remain the same. Refreshments will be served from 10am, with the meeting to start 10.30am – 12.30pm at The Coddenham Centre, Mary Day Close, Coddenham, IP6 9SR.

#### News from your Diocesan rep

I have just returned from Malta where the Paul was shipwrecked. Fortunately no such calamity befell me on my visit, but it was fascinating to visit an island mentioned in the Bible. It certainly has a rich history with many spectacular churches. Here's part of a poem I wrote about the mixed blessings of foreign travel.

Thoughts on Returning from Malta

I've had my foreign holiday this year, seen the busy airports, contributed to global pollution.

But I've returned educated, On historic battles Fought in far-off lands.

## **August at Halesworth Library**

Halesworth Library has a full programme of events throughout August, to keep you busy! As a reminder the Summer Reading Quest is in full swing during August, so children are encouraged to visit us each week to receive their prize and weekly activity. The full programme of events can be seen below:

Friday 8th August - Mixed Media Art workshop led by Anita for ages 8+. Spaces are £1 and limited, please book with a member of staff (time tbc.)

Sunday 10th August 10.30am-12.30pm - Sociable Sundays group for older people. Suggested £1 donation.

Monday 11th August 2pm-4.30pm - Board Games Cafe. Suggested £1 donation.

Tuesday 12th August 11.30am-12.30pm - Story time and craft session with Sarah for all aged children. Free, drop-in.

Wednesday 13th August 10am-11.30am - Meraylah's Forest of Enchantment Oracle launch at the Time Out sociable group for older people. Drop-in, £1 suggested donation.

Friday 22nd August 10am-12.30pm & 1pm-2.30pm - Forensic Workshop for ages 6+. Spaces are £1 and limited, please book with a member of staff.

Sunday 24th August - Sociable Sundays group for older people. Suggested £1 donation.

Tuesday 26th August 11.30am-12.30pm - Story time and craft session with Sarah for all aged children. Free, drop-in. Saturday 30th August 2pm-3pm & 3pm-4pm - End of

Summer celebration with The Tricky Twister. Spaces are £1 and limited, please book with a member of staff.

Every Tuesday we will continue Rhyme Time & Play from 10am-11.30am and East Suffolk Council Customer Service drop-in 10am-4pm. With Citizens Advice attending Tuesday 12th & 26th August 10am-12pm. Knit & Natter group will be meeting Tuesday 5th & 19th August 2pm-4pm. Additionally Barclays Bank will have their drop-in every Wednesday 9am-5pm and Time Out Sociable group meet every Wednesday 10am-11.30am.

**Catherine Draper** 

#### Christian Aid Week - 2025

As a result of another successful Christian Aid Week a sum of £3802 was sent to Christian Aid to support it's work in enabling some of the world's poorest people to sustain themselves, and to improve their situation and that of their community.

Of this £1555 was Gift-Aided, so that an additional £388 (25%) will be recovered in Income Tax by Christian Aid, giving them a total benefit of £4190.

On behalf of the Halesworth and District Christian Aid Group, I should like to say a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who donated and helped, in whatever way, to achieve these excellent results.

**Chris Dunn (local Treasurer)** 

#### **Exciting News from Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund**

With the opening of the new Patrick Stead Day Centre in the old Methodist Church Halesworth, several developments are taking place with our activities, and we are able to extend the work we do for people with dementia and their carers.

More information will be out soon, but our weekly programme of activities is now as follows.

Seated Movement to Music, Mondays at Holton Village Hall from 11am – 12pm. Memory Café in the Co-op Community Room on Tuesdays from 2pm – 3.30pm. Singing With Friends at Holton Village Hall on Wednesdays from 2pm – 3.30pm Every Friday in the Patrick Stead Day Centre - 9.30am – 3.30pm Day Care; 10am – 11.30am Creative Art; 2pm – 3.30pm Carers' Support Group.

If you would like any information about these groups please call 07990 199632.

Or email info@halesworthdementiacare.co.uk

You can also visit our website: www.halesworthdementia. co.uk or follow us on our Facebook page.

#### **Garden Party**

On July 3rd, Janet and Malcolm Heath held a wonderful Garden Party at Dormy House in Linstead, in aid of the Halesworth Dementia Carers's Fund. All the support, help, food, donations etc were magnificent, and all provided by Janet and her loyal band of helpers. Many members of our committee and the 100+ Club were there and enjoyed lovely weather and great company. A splendid sum of £800 was raised and will go towards our opening at the Patrick Stead Day Centre with Day Care and support for our ever-growing numbers.

Very many thanks to Janet, Malcolm, and all their helpers.

John Wood





# From the **Ringing Chamber**

One of the joys, and at the same time one of the irritations of ringing is the fluidity of membership of any particular band of Some bands have a formal constitution and members have to be elected, but for most towers membership is determined by whoever turns up. In both cases visitors are always welcomed (with one or two notable exceptions - you can't just turn up for a practice at St Paul's Cathedral!), people go on holiday (shouldn't be allowed) or England are playing and it's on the telly. But the point is I never know exactly who will turn up to a practice session which makes it difficult to plan.

Following the pandemic it was particularly difficult as people found their way back to normality with different levels of enthusiasm, and the Central Council of Church Bellringers struggled with the concept of social distancing in the tiny enclosed space of a ringing chamber. Halesworth was one of many places that went from having a thriving band to being unable to field a full team, and that led to the decision to move practices to a 6-bell tower (Blythburgh). We kept a monthly practice going at Halesworth though, but had to rely on our friends from Beccles to help us out: without them it would have been impossible.

Just lately things have been looking a bit more positive. With Blythburgh bells out of action for a few months we decided to risk two Halesworth practices a month, and so far that has worked really well. The last couple of months have seen some really good Tuesday nights with Stedman Triples, notoriously tricky, becoming a standard method, and we even managed some Cambridge Surprise Major (difficult stuff on eight bells).

Success breeds success of course, and if visitors feel it is worth coming from Beccles/Southwold/Wrentham then we are more likely to have enough to make the evening progressive.

Where it doesn't work is on Sundays, where our Tuesday visitors are ringing at their own towers, leaving just our own ringers to call the faithful to worship, and we are still so short of numbers that I cannot guarantee to muster enough to ring at Halesworth on a Sunday morning. I can usually get five or six to ring at one of the other churches, and on average each of those with bells will hear them rung on a Sunday once every two months, a silver lining to the dark cloud.

We have had some success with our learners this year. Both Alex and Conor are progressing well and ringing some fairly accurate rounds, and beginning to master call changes. Hopefully they will go on to change ringing in the near future. Unfortunately a lot of time is needed to be spent on the end of a rope in order to become competent, but the ultimate rewards are huge as any experienced ringer will testify.

If anyone is remotely interested in finding out more just drop me a line on halesworthbells@gmail.com

We rang a decent quarter peal before Evensong at Halesworth on the first Sunday, Plain Bob Triples again, allowing Jason who is Tower Captain at Rumburgh to ring his first on eight bells. Some of us used a regular session at Wissett to ring a quarter peal of Carlisle Surprise Minor, a tricky method with an unfamiliar "backwork". There were more "trips" than I would have liked but nevertheless we succeeded in getting to the end. Sundays have seen us at Heveningham, Wenhaston and Chediston, but it has been hard getting enough ringers in the holiday season, and some of those that do ring have been nursing injuries (not from ringing I hasten to add!)

PJG



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# Seeing the Unseen

How many unseen women are there in the Bible? Women who play a bit part in the story, but whose individuality, feelings and wishes are unknown. We may know their names, but beyond that they are often just pawns in a patriarchal world. The story of Hagar, in Genesis 16 and 21 is a good example. Hagar is a slave and a surrogate mother. She is in the control of others and has to endure whatever treatment is meted out to her. There are two parts to her story in Genesis. In the first part of the story, Hagar bears a son for Abram and Sarai, as Sarai has not been able to have children of her own. Sarai feels Hagar is looking down on her because she is able to have children and Sarai seemingly isn't. She tells Abram, "I gave you slave-girl to your embrace and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt." We do not know if this is true. Hagar had no choice in this arrangement. Her consent is immaterial, it is her fertile womb that matters. We are told Hagar gloated when she conceived, her only "power" in this situation, but we can see how Sarah might have felt she did.

Nowadays, I hope, we can understand the deep pain and stigma Sarai must have endured in a society where bearing children was the main role of a woman. Infertility continues to be a cause of great suffering for parents today in a society where images of happy families dominate our advertising and media. Whilst we may have sympathy for Sarah, she is still someone with power in this story. If she chooses to treat Hagar harshly, she is free to do so. Abram says to her, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Sarah "dealt harshly with her" and Hagar runs away into the wilderness. It is likely she has been physically beaten but we aren't given the details.

Many black women have found in Hagar a figure who represents their own suffering. Like many black slave women, she was a victim of abuse on many levels, with no control over what happens to her apart from running away. Her flight into the wilderness happens twice: firstly, when she flees her cruel mistress, and secondly, as we heard this morning, when Sarai asks Abram to banish Hagar and her son, Ishmael, to prevent her own son, Isaac, missing out on some of his inheritance.

The story of Hagar has been ignored over the years, perhaps because it is an uncomfortable one. God does not intervene



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to stop her suffering and we can assume that her life after fleeing Abram and Sarai continued to be tough. There is no "happy ending" here, just as there has been no happy ending for women like Hagar through history. There are many women today who are exploited by human traffickers, imprisoned, prostituted, living in constant fear of violence. There are many women echoing Hagar's cry, "Do not let me look on the death of my child." There are many mothers who continue to witness the deaths of their children through lack of food, water, medication and safety.

What is important is that God sees the suffering and injustice and Hagar knows that she has been seen by God. Hagar becomes the first person to name God when she is told the future of her own son and her response is to marvel: "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" We may well struggle to understand the way God responds, but the story reminds us that once we've seen suffering and injustice, we can't forget it. Thanks to the immediacy of modern media, our screens are full of it every hour of every day. We cannot unsee these images and are left with the powerlessness and grief that witnessing them creates. All we know is, like with Hagar, God is there in the suffering. When she cries out in despair, "Do not let me look on the death of the child", God responds to her son's crying and provides water for Hagar and her son.

The Gospels show Jesus continuing to "see the unseen": the ostracised, the vulnerable, the disturbed. He shows the reality of God's love as seeing them as treasured human beings, worthy of attention and healing. It is a challenge for us as Christians today to learn from the unseen women in the Bible and in them recognise the suffering and opporession in our world today.

The Revd Canon Alison Alder

(Adapted from a sermon given at mid-week communion)

#### **BVTIMES SUBSCRIPTIONS**

For subscribers who receive a copy of *BVTimes* delivered to their home each month and who wish to renew for a further year, please could you make your payment asap. (Many thanks to subscribers who have already renewed!).

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#### HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

After our Spring Fair in May, June is a rather quieter month for us, but we did hold our annual street collection on Friday 27th in the town and on ,Saturday 28th at the Co-op. We are very grateful to the Co-op for allowing us to collect in their shop. Thank you very much to everyone who stopped to speak to our collectors and popped something in our collecting goblets.

Also in June we were invited to send two representatives to the John Leman School on Tuesday 24th, when they held their "Leman 4 Life" event. This has been an annual event at the school where the pupils obtain sponsorship and run a 5km circuit.

The event was always a collaboration between the school and the Beccles group of Cancer Research. Sadly the Beccles group has disbanded, but two of the ladies from the group Jackie and Amanda and Mrs Remer, the teacher from the school, were determined to keep the event going.

It was a huge success and Gail and Christine who represented us had a lovely afternoon and were very impressed by the enthusiasm and behaviour of the pupils as they helped to distribute fruit to the all the runners.

We will be in Beccles again on Friday 22nd August as QD stores have very kindly given us permission to hold a street collection outside their shop. We will be there from 9.30am-3.30pm.

By the time you read this report, we will have completed our week in the iChameleon pop up shop so I will let you know how we got on in the next edition of *BVTimes*.

Our next big event is The Maize Maze by Torchlight on Friday 29th August. We are so very grateful to Bella from The Old

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Hall Cafe for agreeing to hold this again for us this year. This is an event we all enjoy doing as it is such good fun. We will be having the really competitive "welly wanging" and marbles in a flower pot game along with other traditional games. There will be a little prize for the adult and child overall winner for each game. We will also have a little Tombola and cake stall.

The tickets can be bought online from The Old Hall Cafe Reydon/Southwold. (enquiries@oldhallsouthwold.co.uk)

The Old Hall only take card payment.

Unfortunately at the moment, we are cash only for our games and stalls so please put a little change in your pocket and have fun.

Please see our advert on page 28 for more information.

Thank you for continuing to support The Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research.

For more information please contact, Dawn Davis on 01986 873640.



Sophia our area manager, Jackie and Amanda from Beccles and Gail and Christine from Halesworth Branch at the Leman 4 Life event.

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"The LIFE and TIMES of DEREK NEWBY" £9.99, an autobiography. Proceeds to local charities and EA Air Ambulance.

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



#### **Swifts Talk Informs and Delights**



Halesworth Swifts were excited to bring author Sarah Gibson to St Mary's church, Halesworth, on July 10th to talk to an audience of over 100 people about these iconic summer visitors.

Sarah has worked for the Shropshire Wildlife Trust for over 20 years, notably as their Communications Officer. Having become hooked on swifts, she has built up years of knowledge, collected in her book *Swifts and Us.* She travelled for seven and a half hours by



train on a very hot day to come to Halesworth for this event, demonstrating her total dedication to swifts and her wish to share her love and care for them with a wider audience.

Her illustrated talk was wide ranging, fascinating and memorable. She described the astonishing lifestyle of the bird that lives in the sky and brought lots of information that was new to many. For example, she looked at the powerful wing skeleton structure, built for endurance and proving the relationship to hummingbirds. And the strange feet of swifts with their two front/two back claws that can lock in lethal combat for hours with an intruder to their nest. She told how swift towers have been used in Italy for centuries, like dovecotes, to provide nest spaces from where people would collect young swifts to turn into puddings (!) for Christmas time. Happily nowadays these towers are being renovated to provide nest spaces that are safe from robbery. Everyone who came to the talk will have their own memory of some fascinating fact about swifts they first heard here.

A question and answer session after the break gave people the chance to find out more, and Sarah was generous and engaging in her attentive replies.

Audience comments after the talk were along the lines of "fabulous swift talk, I was enthralled", "it was a wonderful event", "the talk was really interesting", and "what a fantastic talk, I really learned more about these magical flight acrobats."

Halesworth Swifts had also brought in some related stalls for people to browse. Halesworth Bookshop had a well stocked table of Sarah's book and other titles. Jeweller and leatherworker River Lark had a very tempting display of swift jewellery and leather accessories. Halesworth Swifts had



Group photo: From left, front row: Brett and Monica Edmonds, Lyndsey Baynham-Davies. Abbie Clements (Halesworth Bookshop), Marie Baynham-Davies, Sarah Gibson. From left, back row: Matt Horsham (River Lark), Edith Summerhayes, Cate Evans.

their own table showing nestboxes and nest bricks, decorative house tiles, pin badges, leaflets, mugs, tote bags and swift cards illustrated by Marie Baynham-Davies of Halesworth Swifts. The event was kindly sponsored by Halesworth wine seller Bacchus Beyond.

Halesworth Swifts are most grateful to everyone who helped and enabled them to put on this event, to the church for providing a wonderful and cool space for the occasion, and to all who came along to learn more about our amazing swifts and to support them. The event raised over £300 which will help fund future nestbox installations locally.

For more information or enquiries, go to Facebook "Halesworth Swifts" or email: halesworthswifts@gmail.com

**Edith Summerhayes** 



Photos by Cate Evans

Stall: Halesworth Swifts items



#### News from Pauline Milsted, BV Churches' Children, Family and Youth Worker

#### **Church Mice Tots**

By the time the *BVTimes* goes to print we w have had our final Church Mice Tots until September 2025. What an exciting year our first year of Tots has been! We have had the privilege of meeting with so many families across Halesworth and the local area. We have grown alongside our babies, who many are now on the move and it's hard to think how tiny they were last September and October.



We finished Church Mice Tots first year with a trip to Southwold Beach. It was a lovely time of fun and enjoying the beach together. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came, but also to the Blakemore Foundation (Spar Halesworth); who kindly gave us a voucher of £40 to

buy picnic food for the event. We have made so many special, cherished memories in the past year and developed a sense of community of love and belonging.

#### **Youth Space**

Youth Space has continued to grow as well as our number of volunteers. With one night reaching a record 28 youths! We have introduced more volunteers to the team with a range of skills and expertise. In the last month we have eaten lots of food! But also done some wonderful crafts from clay to painting wooden spoons. But for me those special moments are the moments which I would class as gentle mentorship and feeling that beloved belonging. Where we are able to have honest discussions about how to keep ourselves save online, learning to clean our shoes together, talking about our worries about school or sharing our grieve for Nischay Patel together.

It hammers home for me a lot of what we are doing behind the scenes of youth space that a lot of you won't know about. Learning simple life skills, like how to make a hot chocolate, but sharing life together. Learning that they belong in this space, hint our name youth space your space, but also how to co-share that space. Whether that be a child buying milk, because they recognise, we used it all and others might need it tomorrow. Or the child that was so proud they were allowed to plant some tomato plants outside and watered all the plants because they were bone dry; but also told me he will come and water them every day after school!

The sense of the belonging they are feeling that they come in and help me set up tots on a Wednesday night. Or young people that are touched by the fact we took a moment and set up in our little church in St Mary's to honour him and give them a space to do so if they wanted to. To the fact that they feel able when I am in at another time to ask, please may have a sandwich? And know this is a safe space for them. This is truly something special that we are creating, a space for them within our community; where they are loved and due belong; a space that is just as much there's as anyone else.

#### **Holton Eco Warriors**

Children from Sparkles Nursery at Holton Primary School joined us for their two final sessions of Eco Warriors at the

beginning of July. This month's theme was bugs and we spent time looking and hunting for bugs in the churchyard. We were fascinated by ant nests, watching bees go into their underground nests by a tree, and so much more. We talked about how churchyards provide a valuable haven for our wildlife and that we need to look after them.

Their tomatoes and plants that they planted last month are doing really well. We could see the tiny yellow flowers on the tomatoes and even some green tomatoes coming. Please do take time over the summer to see their plants and help yourself to some nice red juicy tomatoes when they are ready!

Next term we will be starting Eco Warriors back in September with Sparkles Nursery and Reception Class. We will be changing our days and will now be doing the first Tuesday and Friday morning of the month.

#### **Messy Church Conference**

I did consider including, as the messy church conference write up, the 1,000 plus words that I was asked to write for the new Diocese Growing Younger E-News. However, I figured that everyone may not appreciate that lengthy report printed here, and if you want to read it, it will be published in the September E-News. However, what I will say is I went to the messy church conference at High Leigh at the end of June and it was an inspiring weekend. The theme of messy church conference was 'All Together'.

We talked about beloved belonging, about how to eradicate margins we have to go and stand with those on the edge of society and the edge of our groups. We have to act with the love of Christ, to share that community of belonging that we all need for psychological safety. We looked at intergenerational worship, what it means to be an intergenerational church community. Inclusive practise was discussed and Pauline went to an inspiring talk from Alma Autism and has brought away some fabulous tools for her toolkit. We even had wild church outside on the Saturday afternoon. I cannot wait to continue to share with people and put into practice the ideas and encouragement from the weekend.

#### **Sensory Bible Story time**

The parable of the lost sheep was the theme of our Sensory Bible Story Time on June 27th at St Mary's Church in Halesworth. It was a real time of togetherness, with our parents and children. We sang songs, we told the story in two ways, once with a story tray and once with the parachute. Yes, you can tell the story with a parachute and some balls; you just need to add a little sprinkle of Pauline



News from Pauline Milsted, BV Churches' Children, Family and Youth Worker - continued

creativeness. But also, we had a discussion with parents about how it feels to be lost both physically and spiritually and then found. As well as a time of sharing and prayer.

#### **Lambeth Palace**

Pauline, our Children, Family and Youth Worker was among a group of five Children, Family and Youth Ministers or workers from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich who were invited to Lambeth Palace for a special event recognising contribution to children, family and youth ministry.

Pauline was very blessed to be invited for afternoon tea and had an incredible time. There was a real sense of appreciation for those who work with children, families and youth. Some fantastic speakers, encouraging us to challenge the traditional models that might not work, talking about the quiet revival and also remembering the one is worth it. Pauline also received a letter of thanks from the King; which is going to be proudly displayed on her desk in St Mary's' church office.





#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE**

Can anyone spare one or two Wednesday mornings (from 10am - 11.30am) each month to come

and help us at Waveney Foodbank in St Mary's church Halesworth, please? If you are able to volunteer, please contact Gill on 07940 221054 or Pauline on 07758 489102

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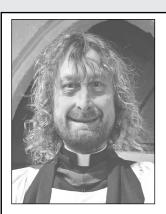
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Tel: 01986 948968 Mobile: 07743 554955 Fmail: dominic.doble@ phonecoop.coop

(Off duty: Mondays)



The Revd Canon **Alison Alder Associate Priest** 

Oakhurst. Blackheath Road Wenhaston, IP19 9HD Tel: 01502 478855 Mobile: 07584 416277 Email: revalialder@gmail.com

(Off duty: Thurs & Fri)



The Revd **Linda Berry Assistant Curate** 

Old Post Office. The Street. Huntingfield, IP19 OPU Tel: 01986 798165

Email: lindaberry@outlook.com

(Off duty: Mon & Tues)



The Revd **Edmund Smith Assistant Curate** 

25 Bedingfield Crescent Halesworth **IP19 8EE** 

Tel: 07787 615716 Fmail: eps31@cantab.ac.uk

(Off duty: Fridays)

The Revd Vic Hopkins

Tel: 01986 875934

Email: csninefour@btinternet.com

Fr Desmond Banister Tel: 07702 725825.

Email: ppasnh@gmail.com

Associate Priest

Associate Priest

#### **READERS**

Veronica Mowat

Tel: 07802611410. Email: vmm1151@gmail.com Jim Green

Tel: 07742032536.

Email: jimpiecrust@phonecoop.coop

#### **ELDERS**

Jason Busby 01986 873336.

Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk Alison Cackett 01986 874442.

Email: acackett@me.com **Veronica Downing** 07799 484266.

Email: veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289.

Email: mlheath@aol.com Eileen Salmon 07359 438882.

From August 11th 2025:

Conor Smith conor.j.smith@outlook.com **Gary Atkins** 07981 979551

Chris Atkins 07954 436855

# The Blyth Valley Churches' office

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**Annie Groves:** Administrator Blyth Valley Churches, Clerk to BV Parishes Joint Council,

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Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328. Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

**Jason Busby:** *Organist Blyth Valley Churches* Tel: 01986 873336. Mobile: 07817 863533

Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

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

Blyth Valley Churches

Tel: 01986 875354. Email: pjg@hhhh.me.uk

**Pauline Milsted:** Children, Family & Youth Worker; Communications Officer; Deputy

Safeguarding Officer

Email: pauline@growingtogetherearlyyears.co.uk

Carolyn Clarke: BVTimes Magazine Compositor

#### **ECUMENICAL CLERGY**

The Revd Martin Keenan, Methodist Minister 27 Meadow Gardens, Beccles NR34 9PA. Tel: 07921 540170.

Email: martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

The Revd Jon Sermon, URC Minister
Halesworth & Bramfield URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP. Tel: 01986 873761
Email: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

Father Christopher Smith, Roman Catholic Priest
St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church,
Halesworth IP19 8SY. Tel: 01502 723207
Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

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#### Café Church Tuesdays!

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

The Revd Canon Alison Alder at:
revalialder@gmail.com
or The Revd Linda Berry at:
lindaberry@outlook.com

# **News from Town & Villages**

# **Blyford**

# Correspondent Christina Ballinger ballinger@myphone.coop WILD CHURCH BLYFORD

All Saints Blyford's next wild church service is on Sunday 17th August and Jim Green will be leading the service. The theme will be water and the service will involve a walk to the river Blyth, which is a field away from the church.



The next Stall on the Green will be on Saturday 16th August, 11am until 2pm. Roy Tricker returns to Blyford on Friday September 19th to entertain us with a guided tour of the church starting at 6pm. Doors open at 5.30pm. Entry by donation (no ticket required).

Our annual Loaves and Fishes Open Mic is on Tuesday 7th October in the church, 6pm-8pm. Doors open at 5.30pm. Entry by donation (no ticket required).

We are open to ideas for other community events, so please contact Blyford PCC if you have suggestions.

Blyford PCC is very grateful to all our donors, volunteers and supporters and to everyone who helps out at our events and work parties. Thanks also to everyone at the Blyth Valley Team Ministry.

If you would like to know more about All Saints Blyford, please come to the Stall on the Green or to an event or a service, or contact any members of the PCC: Virginia Storey, Charlie Hawkins, John Handley, Martin Clarke, Christina Ballinger or our Team Rector, the Revd Dominic Doble.

#### **Bramfield**

# Correspondent Alfred Mullett snowmein@mac.com

July has been busy. Several notable activities have happened.

#### **Bramfield Fete**

The joint fete between St Andrew's Church and Bramfield Village has happened, there will be more details in the next issue, but we had live music, good food and activities for the whole community.

It is a marvellous opportunity for the church and the Village to work together for the common good.

#### Circle 67 King Lear

Circle 67 has produced their Shortened Shakespeare version of King Lear. It was performed in Bramfield and in the surrounding villages, it is always a treat to go to these. It feels, at least to this commentator, like it was supposed to be seen. Also, another great gathering time in the community.

#### **Church Maintenance and Repairs**

We are well into the process of repairing/replacing the loose render and getting ready for the first limewash in many years. While there have been a few surprises, as with any 700 plus year old building, overall the building is in excellent shape and with the work that has been taken it will be in far better shape for years to come. This would not have been possible without the grant from the Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant sponsored by Diocese of Edmundsbury and Ipswich. If your parish is in need of small repairs, or has some small improvements in hand, it is worth looking into. It was interesting to find out that our ochre yellow colour is rather unique for churches, but certainly brightens our community. If you are passing by, take some time to drop in, it is both very peaceful, and also full of unique historic artefacts and history.

# Upcoming Activities September 13th – Ride and Stride

The Ride and Stride is happening this September, it is a benefit for all our churches in the region. While it is a September activity, now is the time to start warming up for a good day out in the county. https://shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

Let us know if you wish a sponsorship form to ride for St Andrew's Bramfield.

# Morning Prayer Every Thursday at 9.30am at St Andrew's Bramfield

We have a quiet, reflective, Morning Prayer service every Thursday morning at 9.30am. A nice, quiet, and peaceful time to reflect, spend a few moments with friends after and take a break from the bustle of the week. We have the privilege of having our new Curate, Edmund, take the service and it appears he will be doing so going forward. He spoke on Job and the significance of that experience, last week. It will add a new dimension to an already special service going forward.

In the insanity that is washing around us like a storm tide, it is good to know that there is a quiet place when we take time with God where at least for that moment we can spend time with our best friend possible, and find a peaceful centre for our day or week.

#### 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 Veronica Downing veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

Last month I gave the heads up that In early August our Early Years Worker for the benefice, Pauline Milsted, is planning to run a special outdoors activities event using Chediston churchyard and church. This will take place on Sunday 10th August from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Activities will be linked to the *Big Butterfly Count* and hunting for our resident reptiles, such as slow worms among the gravestones, and also encouraging children and families to appreciate our wonderful churchyard. Look out for posters with details.

#### August 2025

That same Sunday, 10th August, is busy and full for Chediston folk.

In the morning we are welcoming the Revd Linda to take our Holy Communion service at 10am and in the evening at Cookley, there is 6pm Choral Evensong with Elder Commissioning and Rector Installation, by our Archdeacon Rich Henderson.

Veronica Downing (currently one of the Blyth Valley Church Elders) is being recommissioned along with six other lay elders.

The Lay Elders' role is to support the ministry team and lead services such as Morning Prayer. The Revd Dominic is also being installed as Rector for Cookley, Heveningham and Huntingfield churches.

The second service at Chediston in August 24th is Morning Prayer taken by Veronica.

We are also looking forward to our Harvest Festival, but the date is yet to be confirmed. Jo Wareham and I have been discussing the opportunity to have an inaugural organ recital with visiting organist and the setting of Harvest may provide a beautiful backdrop.

Our Copeman Hart organ in a previous life was the practice organ of William Lloyd Webber English organist and composer and father of Julian and Andrew Lloyd Webber. It has been refurbished with modern digital technology and amazingly sounds really like the real thing (a pipe organ)!

Our churchwarden Jo is often down at the church when visitors turn up on a church crawl, bike ride or looking for ancestors in the churchyard. They are always very complimentary about our beautiful church – we know, because they write lovely comments in the visitors' book!

Our first Thursday bellringing practice saw us learning a new variation on the basic method of Plain Bob Doubles, called Kennington, which was fun.

As I mentioned last month, we are in need of more bellringers, so if there are any people (aged approximately 9 to 69 years) interested in finding out more about bellringing as an enjoyable, challenging and very sociable pastime in Chediston, or even returning after a long break and brushing off the cobwebs, please do get in touch and come along to say hello at the next practice on Thursday 7th August at 7.30pm.

Alternatively, get in touch with the Blyth Valley churches Ringing Master,

#### **Blyth Valley Times**

Philip Gorrod, whose contact details are on page 17 of this magazine.

#### Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers
janeeversj@gmail.com
There will be a Choral Evensong, with
Elder Commissioning and Rector
Installation, at 6pm on Sunday 10th
August. Archdeacon Rich Henderson.

# 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

At our joint service on Sunday 6th July, we were delighted to welcome Edmund. In a Q&A style sermon, Dominic asked the questions Edmund wanted to answer! Allowing us all to hear Edmund's honest and inspiring journey to faith. He shared how a churchwarden played a key role in that journey, and how a farmer friend had helped shape his understanding of God, not as distant or abstract, but as deeply present in the natural world. God, he said, was found in the frost on the field, in the light breaking through cloud on a bright harvest evening. It's this kind of earthy, intimate faith, rooted in creation and community, that Edmund feels called to be a part of and we're glad to walk alongside him. If you missed the service and Edmunds Q&A with Dominic, you can catch up now online by visiting

> www.youtube.com/ @halesworthparish

On Thursday 10th July, the Halesworth Swifts welcomed over 100 people to St Mary's church for a fascinating and inspiring talk by author and swift champion, Sarah Gibson. Her

illustrated presentation, based on her book Swifts and Us, captured the and mystery of these wonder remarkable birds that sleep in the sky. Sarah's deep knowledge and passion for conservation shone through, and many were moved by her reflections on the beauty and fragility of nature. The evening was not only a celebration of swifts but also a powerful reminder of the importance of local conservation efforts. Thanks to all who came, and to The Halesworth Bookshop for being on hand with copies of Sarah's book. A truly successful and uplifting evening! Another example of how our beloved building can be used by the community.



The Friends of St Mary's Halesworth are thrilled to welcome internationally acclaimed concert pianist Jill Crossland as the featured performer in their popular Lunchtime Recital Series on Wednesday 13th August. Jill Crossland is known for her expressive and insightful interpretations. The recital 12.30pm and approximately 45 minutes, offering the perfect cultural interlude in the heart of Halesworth. As always, refreshments, including freshly made sandwiches, homemade cakes, scones, tea, and coffee will be served from 12 noon. Everyone is most warmly invited, come for the music, stay for the community, and help keep this historic space alive with culture and conversation.



Support our Churchwarden Jason Busby – Riding for St Mary's! We're excited that our very own Jason Busby and

#### Page 20

daughters will be taking part in this year's Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride on Saturday 13th September, riding in support of St Mary's, Halesworth. This fantastic event raises vital funds for the upkeep of Suffolk's historic churches, and every pound sponsored goes a long way in preserving these special places of worship. Please consider sponsoring Jason as he pedals for our church, let's cheer him on and support the work of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust!



A prayer for the summer. Loving God, as we enter the summer season, we thank you for the gift of rest, sunshine, and time with those we love. Bless all who are travelling, taking a break, or simply enjoying a slower pace. Keep everyone safe, refreshed, and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. May this summer be a time of joy, peace, and moments of quiet with you. Amen.

#### 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.





#### **HALESWORTH WI**

We set off on a lovely day on the two Hoppa buses, driven by John and Phil on our summer outing.

First stop was at the Keys in Ipswich where we enjoyed a coffee and an excellent lunch. Then well fortified, we travelled to the Bawdsey Radar Museum with an opportunity to look round and listen to a guide on the fascinating work that went on during the 1940s war! A quick visit to the quay side gave an chance for some members to paddle before we made our way home

#### **Blyth Valley Times**

# Heveningham

Correspondent
Jeanette Griffin 01986 798280
stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com

It has been a quiet couple of months recently, due to me having an unexpected operation. However, now that I'm on the road to recovery, we can look forward to what is coming up in August.

August 10th at 10am, we are happy to hold our Pet Service again and, hopefully, we will welcome Teddy the Tortoise again as well as the possibility of goats and sheep. All pets are welcome, and the service is open to all ages. Beloved soft toys are also welcome. Please come and join us for this lovely informal service.

August 14th at 12pm, the St Mary's Handbell Ringers will be holding an interactive concert, where you have the chance to join in and try your hand with the bells. This always proves to be a fun session and is suitable for all ages.

August 26th, between 6pm-9pm, we are holding our first Bat Evening. Come along and join us for the chance to spot some of the Heveningham bats, with an informative talk, crafts and food available.

All our activities are free but donations towards the upkeep of the Church are always welcome.

#### 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-ubbeston

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





#### Holton

Correspondent Jill Hewlett 01986 875913

#### iill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

Here we are in August already, and it feels like Autumn! It has been such a sunny and dry year that everything is

looking parched. As I write in mid-July many fields have been harvested of their crops; how much they have yielded must be a worry to our farmers and the food supply chain. We won't go hungry, but for many round the world harvest is a matter of life or death. On that rather sombre note I will turn to reporting on everything that has been going on since the last issue of BVTimes.

St Peter's Day was marked this year by a Team Service in St Peter's Holton, when we were joined by friends from around the Team, particularly from the other parishes where the church is dedicated to St Peter. St Peter is the saint who gives me the most encouragement, he made so many mistakes, but God was able to work through him to establish His church here on earth. How wonderful is that!

It was a joyous occasion, with the Revd Alison Alder leading our worship and the Revd Edmund Smith assisting at Communion. The congregation stayed for refreshments after the service when rock cakes (for St Peter) and Dot's biscuits were eaten and cold drinks served and there was a lot of happy chat.

#### **Holton gets Eco Church Bronze Award**

St Peter's, Holton, has now joined other team churches in securing its Bronze Eco Church Award. It has taken a while to get there, but we have hit the mark in the required categories: Worship and Teaching, Management of Buildings and Land, Community and Global Engagement, and Lifestyle.

Many thanks indeed to the ministers, leaders, congregation members and everyone who helps our church go forwards in an environmentally conscious and responsible manner. Particular thanks to John Hewlett, Chris Knevett, Neil Reid and **Fdith** Summerhayes for supplying information for the surveys and for submitting the application. The certificate is on display in the church porch.

#### Flower Festival and Songs of Praise

Well done everyone! Once again St Peter's has put on a fabulous show of artistry and imagination that delighted all who came to visit. The theme of Dances through the Decades gave everyone a wide range of subjects to play with, whether it was The Twist, Swan Lake or The Cancan: the displays were all excellent interpretations of the subject.

A BIG thankyou must go to Helen



Knevett and Dot Booley who are the prime movers in organising this big event which is enjoyed by so many; another BIG thank you to all our flower arrangers who make this such a popular village event; and our thanks must also go to those whose input is behind the scenes, so thankyou to Chris Knevett and Neil Reid. This is one of St Peter's main fund-raising events, without it we would be in a much worse financial position, so thank you too for all who put donations in the carboy and who enjoyed the refreshments on offer. The amount raised is over £1,200, which is a wonderful result. Again, thankyou to all who contributed in any way.

It has become the custom over a number of years to end our weekend with a service of favourite hymns chosen by members of the congregation, and this year is no different. Veronica Mowat led our worship and Bill Mahood our prayers, with Jason Busby playing the organ, and the choir to boost the singing, though I am not sure we were needed as everyone was singing heartily. It is

#### **Blyth Valley Times**

lovely to end a wonderful weekend with hymns that mean so much to so many.

Dot Booley is well known in St Peter's for her poems written for all occasions and once again she came up trumps. And here it is:-

#### **Dancing for Joy**

It is that time of year again
When a poem comes to my mind
About our lovely festival
And the props we have to find
Myself I had to drink yoghurt
To bring my cholesterol down
So I could use the little pots
To create my Maypole crown
Then tap shoes and a shiny tap
To depict an energetic dance
The pole and the flowery hat
Which Morris dancing did enhance
The old- fashioned dances we learnt
at school

Like the Waltz and the barn dance too Not forgetting the Scottish highland fling

Dances loved the whole world through

The community dances as line dance is

There is Disco, The Twist, Jazz and Swing

We have Maypole, Morris and country dance

What joy these dances can bring Some of our dances are on Strictly each year

The paso doble and the Waltz too Very different is ballet and the cancan Irish dancing and flamenco to name but a few

We've enjoyed our weekend once again

With such interesting and amazing displays

Just think how music makes you feel As you remember them in future days So it's thanks to all of you who have helped

It's a team game of the there's no doubt

The visitors too who came to look and to eat

And leave donations as they go out So once again as we sing our favourite hymns

In this place where we all love to be Let's think back to the people who over the years

Have kept it going which we no longer see

**Dottie Booley** 

#### **A Summer Cycle**

Before we reached Halesworth we found the Church at Holton hidden in a stand of trees round tower, robust, resolute feasting a festival of flowers dancing in the cool stillness a welcome and tea and cake a summer cycle seeking shady lanes Suffolk dells of bearded barley ready for the reaper a summer cycle occasionally a car sharing courtesy sharing a smile slight slopes electrically assisted grateful aging knees just grateful for a summer's afternoon moments shared moments

hughlake@yahoo.co.uk

#### 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.





# The Children's Society Box Opening and Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended the box opening and coffee morning on Saturday 5th July, and also to those who have given in their boxes since that date.

I am pleased to say that we have so far collected £505.72, including £135 from the refreshments, bring and buy stall, and raffle.

At the time of writing, there are still 11 boxes to be handed in so I am hoping that the total we are able to donate to the work of The Children's Society will increase.

My grateful thanks also to the amazing bakers, fresh produce growers and gift donors who contributed to the coffee morning and for all those who helped during the event. They say, 'Teamwork makes the dream work' and that was

certainly the case on July 5th.

If you still have a box to be collected or a cheque/cash donation to make, please contact me on 07954 436855 or email: cmatkins87@gmail.com and I can arrange to sort collection if needed. Thank you **Chris Atkins** 

# 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.





#### Linstead

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

WHEN WE FIRST CAME TO SUFFOLK people talked with awe about 'The Saints'. It took a little time for us to realise that it was a geographical obsession, rather than a religious one. We were counselled that, until we got to know the area better, they were best avoided. A medieval map -maker might well have inserted the warning 'There be Dragons'. Gradually we became braver and crossed them, realising that one was bound to get lost once or twice, but one's destination was always reached in the end. I have to tell you that the dragons are back. These days they wield 'Road Closed' signs and are adept at confusing the unwary traveller. The message is: Leave more time.

WE ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING ONE of the principal events of the Summer Season. The fête really is enormous fun and you will put on weight just browsing the cake stall, so perhaps it should carry a Health Warning! The Village Hall is our village's greatest asset (apart from the church) and is entirely

#### **Blyth Valley Times**

independent, run and maintained by volunteers. The fête is our main fundraising event of the year, so please do come and support us.

ONE IS QUITE USED TO THE BECK drying out at this time of the year, but it reveals a potential problem for the future. Over the years, silt has built up under the bridges. The bridge by us is no exception. Remembering how it used to be, I would calculate that the archway is at least half blocked. If all the bridges are the same, the potential for flooding is significant. We all know that the climate is getting more unpredictable and that severe rainstorms are a distinct possibility. It might be rather a good idea if a bit of cleaning out of the beck is carried out whilst conditions are favourable. There is, I fear, a general attitude of laissezfaire with regard to river maintenance which is bound to end in tears. Just downstream from us there is very substantial device for measuring the water-level in the beck. Needless to say it is non-functional or to put it another way, derelict. Assuming that the whole river system has been maintained to the same standard, there is a disaster waiting to happen. Imagine the scenario of a rain-storm such as the one which struck Valencia or more recently, Texas. With no functioning monitoring equipment, there might well be no warning. Linstead is quite close to the Waveney/Blyth watershed, so might be relatively safe, but downstream? Just call me Cassandra.

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI HEARD a fascinating talk from local broadcaster and podcaster Stephanie Mackentyre entitled 'My Life behind the mike', She explained how podcasts work, how she gathered her material and some of the

interesting people she had met. Their next meeting is on August 12th, and is the annual Garden Meeting, held, just for a change, at the Village Hall at 2.30pm.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* **KEEP THIS DATE:** 

> **SEPTEMBER 27th** at 7pm.

THE KAWAI ORGAN AT LINSTEAD CHURCH

AS YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE!

FULL DETAILS IN THE NEXT BVTIMES \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

JANET HEATH WISHES TO EXPRESS her thanks to all who supported her garden party, in aid of the Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund. The weather was perfect and about 50 people enjoyed her garden and the tea party. The event raised an amazing £800 for

THE SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER WILL BE traditional Matins on September 21st at

## **Spexhall**

**Correspondent Keith Noakes** spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com

(\*Spexhall is thought to be Anglo-Saxon for 'woodpecker') Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

#### Thanks to the Aurora Consort

We had a lovely afternoon of song provided by the very talented Aurora Consort, led by Vetta Wise. We are thankful both to them and to Simon and Cleone at the Angel for providing us with drinks for sale.

#### Thanks for the Village Party!

Huge thanks to Francis and Elizabeth for hosting the village party on the pightle on Saturday 19th July, and for providing such generous refreshments. Thanks too for those who brought delicious food for us all to enjoy.

#### So the restoration fund so far....

The combined events above helped us to raise about £500 towards the restoration fund for the church, which is a good start. However, the main point of these events is to enable us to get

#### **Blyth Valley Times**

#### together with other villagers and friends. Thanks to all involved!

#### Strimming the churchyard

Another paragraph of thanks to Fred Woods and his merry team who managed to strim the churchyard in remarkable heat on the 1st of July. Thanks to you all. It really helps us to manage the churchyard.

#### The Village Dog Show

Don't forget to bring you dog to the Village Fun Dog show on Saturday 23rd August at 1pm. Raffle, BBQ and teas and cakes available. Of course if you don't have a dog you are equally encouraged to come and see the antics of the pooches in the afternoon.

#### **Next Service at St Peter's**

The next service at St Peter's will be Holy Communion on Sunday 31st August at 10am. As always, all are welcome to join us!

#### 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

Thorington PCC is planning an event in the churchyard for Saturday 6th September, from 1pm. There will be Halesworth Harmony signing for us all from 2pm, so do come along. (If wet, inside the church, for sure!).

Liz will be making delicious lunches and there will be homemade tea and cakes till 4pm. More detail next time and we look forward to seeing you all then.

As always, do join us at a morning service, the more the merrier! See page 3 of BVTimes for list of service times/dates, thank you.

#### St Peter's Church, **Thorington**

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-thorington

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





# Walpole

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

#### St Mary's Church, Walpole

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

Details of how you can make a donation are on our website: https:// www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk/ st-marys-church-walpole

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





#### Wenhaston

Correspondent **Margaret Bloomfield** 01502 478502 margaret@wrush.plus.com

I do hope you are all enjoying the splendid Summer, it has been rather hot for us East Anglian's and sadly the gardens have suffered, but it has been good to feel the sun on our faces and we can't say we haven't had a Summer this year. Winter will be upon us before we know it!

We will be serving the teas at the Village Show in August and I am sure we shall be very busy as it is a popular event. Otherwise we will be having a quiet Summer at church but we do have two weddings in August and we

send our blessings to Molly and Thomas, and to Alexandra and Basil, and wish them long and happy marriages.

A reminder that we shall be having the Two St Peters Quiz on October 17th in the Village Hall.

#### **August Services**

3rd 10am Team Service at

Halesworth

10th 10am Ecumenical communion

17th 10am Holy Communion

24th 10am Pause for thought

31st No service at Wenhaston

#### 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.





#### **Wenhaston Walkers**

Our first walk of the month will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 5th August.

The second walk, led by Ian, will take place on Tuesday 19th August, leaving the Horse & Groom, Wrentham NR34 7HJ at 10am. Details of lunch will

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

> ipbigwood@btinternet.com Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

#### Wissett

**Correspondent Mary Pester** 01986 835869

#### marypester@rocketmail.com

I am writing this on St Swithun's Day and hoping for some useful rain for the dry, dry ground. Despite the drought I have seen plum trees heavy with ripening fruit, sloes-a-plenty in the hedgerows and more than enough hazel nuts on my trees for the squirrels. My garden is full of so many bees, butterflies and the interesting Hummingbird Hawk Moth, that I reached for my Ladybird book of Bees,

Butterflies, Moths and other Insects for information.

Did you know that there are nearly three thousand seven hundred kinds of beetles in Britain?

Something new every day. "New every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove;

through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought."

On Sunday 17th August at 10am we will have a service of Morning Prayer taken by Edmund, his first here in Wissett. I do hope many will come to welcome and worship with him and, of course, stay for refreshments after the service. Welcome Edmund!

When I was little my Mother sang,

"Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh, shadows of the evening steal across the sky", as a lullaby at bedtime. The sky may not have the shadows of the evening on August 24th at 6pm but the day will be over and we will have Evensong. Our service of Evensong in June was so well attended and almost like a party afterwards with so many friends from across the team staying for refreshments. Thank you to everyone, please do come again!

I wonder if we will be singing a hymn by

#### **Blyth Valley Times**

William Cowper at either of these services?

I recently read his poem, Epitaph on a Hare. It is so interesting. He was given a young hare to care for to help with his depression and suicidal thoughts. Poor man. Knowing how he struggled has helped me appreciate his hymns. In God moves in a mysterious way he writes "Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;

The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head."

I am looking forward to clouds above full of rain, mercy too and in being with you all again singing praises in Wissett!

# St Andrew's Church,

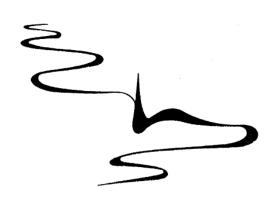
has joined the "Give a Little" online donation service.

Wissett

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.

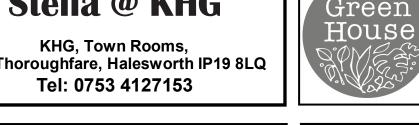






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We are very blessed to live amongst such talented, caring and creative people.

There is not one of our Parochial Church Councils (PCC) who would turn away an offer of a new councillor.

#### Our tasks are:

- co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the use (mission) of the church.\*
- looking after the financial affairs of the church including fundraising.
- maintaining the church building and its contents.

#### Each council has three main officers:

**Churchwardens** who look after the events and maintenance programme of the church.

Treasurers who keep accounts and an eye on budgets supporting fundraising.

**Secretaries** do the paperwork for the four or so meetings a year, the key one being the APCM, and support programme planning.

Each parish is an independent charity. Members are voluntary trustees who can sometimes feel inadequate and sometimes inexperienced. You do not need to be religious, though believing in the worth of the building and what it stands for in the broadest of terms does help!

We offer Diocesan and local training and have WhatsApp groups running for day to day support, and have monthly or quarterly informal get-togethers depending on the role.

A number of our PCCs are either entirely new or their members are now fulfilling the officer roles for the first time.

Do get in touch with Dominic (07743 554955).

Email: dominic.doble@phonecoop.coop)

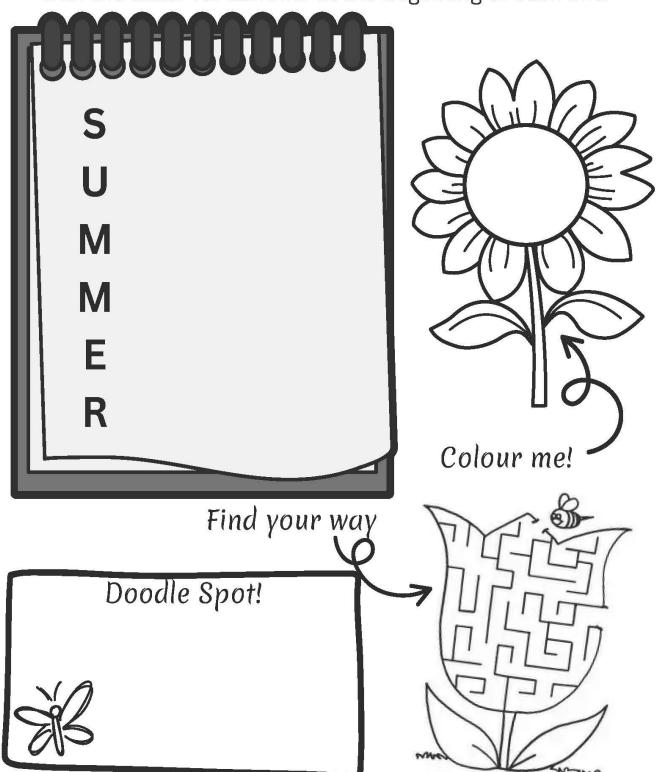
to find out more.

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<sup>\*</sup> e.g. for use as public space for worship, exhibitions, swap shops, carols, local produce sales, gigs, plays, community lunches, funerals, meetings, Larder collection points etc...

# KIDS' PAGE

Try and write your own acrostic poem. Think of something beginning with the letter for Summer at the beginning of each line.



#### **FOSM Lunchtime Recital Reviews**

#### June 2025 - "A Musical Feast"

On Wednesday 11th, we welcomed Anglia Baroque. "Tasty treats from the 17th Century" A group of musical friends who play music of the 16th to 18th centuries presented to by Rosy Payne, Stephen Cheek and Andrew Spencer – all playing violin and viola. Rachel Fuckher - cello - and Christopher Dexter-Mills – harpsichord. Today playing music from the 17th century. What is baroque music? I did not know, but I expected I would find out. They use baroque-style instruments and play at lower pitch than modern standards. Nine pieces of music or suites of music, it was notable that several contained cannons where one performer (or group of players if played by an orchestra) starts the melody, the next starts the melody and a few bars later, then the next and so on, so all playing from different places in the theme but harmonising together. Later I was told by Christopher that it was very popular at that time.

The fourth piece was played in a minor key which was particularly moving, *Sonata Sesta A4 – La Cetra* composed by Giovanni Legrinzi. Christopher played three arias alone on his big harpsichord and the rest played by the whole group. A very enjoyable recital. Speaking to Christopher afterwards, I learnt that sound from the harpsichord dies away faster than modern piano, being plucked and not hit by the hammer as a piano. The keyboard is not as you would suspect it as there are a few base notes available at the bottom end when required. I asked the difference between a harpsichord and clavichord and learnt the former has a single string for each note and the clavichord has three strings to each note. I hope that the group will be visiting us again in the not too distant future.

Mary O'Rourke

#### July 2025 - "Tough Love"

On Wednesday 9th July, the Friends of St Mary's hosted tenor, Evan Ruth, accompanied by pianist, Jonathan Rutherford, for their July lunchtime recital. Those present were treated to a programme of art song and opera exploring aspects of love's challenges and beauty, entitled 'Tough Love'. The set explored the different interpretations of love from different countries in a journey through music from 1875 to 1937.

Evan and Jonathan began the set with *Vocalise* by Rachmaninov, a song without words which has had its fair share of instrumental arrangements. Standing directly in front of the open lid of the piano, encased in a beam of light, Evan sung the haunting and wandering melody with expert transitions between the softer and louder parts of the composition.

Next was *The Flower Song* from the opera *Carmen* by Bizet, which, in Evan and Jonathan's treatment, appeared sweet and light-hearted. Gladly, the audience were provided with handouts of the lyrics with the words translated into English from the French. Helped along by Jonathan's flourishes on the piano, the tight narrative of the piece was driven to an emotional release in the line, 'te revoir, o Carmen, oui te revoir!' (to see you again, oh Carmen, yes, to see you again!) Introducing *Phidylé* by Duparc, Evan explained that it was a setting of Leconte de Lisle's poem of the same name, in

which a lover spies on a shepherdess, Phidylé, sleeping by a spring in the midday sun, waiting for her to waken. The lover hopes that when the sun begins to set, Phidylé will reward his patience with a smile and a kiss. With pregnant pauses and a beautifully soft entrance into the second verse, the piano just lagging behind the line 'Repose, o Phidylé', Evan and Jonathan prove to be a more than competent pairing. 'Repose, o Phidylé' is repeated numerous times after the third verse, Evan masterfully varying the emotion in each enunciation before surging into the final verse, both voice and piano dancing together in rising momentum.

The final piece of Evan's first set (before Jonathan's piano interlude) was *Au pied de mon lit* by Lili Boulanger. Here, Jonathan's crisp playing was permitted the freedom to find those spaces with which to tug at the heart, building to the climax of 'Virgo Lauretana, vous savez que'en ces heures', Evan's voice confidently filling the church with sound.

For Jonathan's piano interlude, he chose to play through three exquisite compositions by Edvard Grieg. The first, *Arrietta* (Opus 12 no.1), was short and sweet, gently reflective and moved in unexpected directions. Not pausing for applause, he moved on to *Papillons* (Opus 43 no.1), a piece in which he described we should be able to hear the flight of butterflies (you can indeed!), but the subtler talent showcased was Jonathan's ability to move a motif between the foreground and background. Jonathan finished the set with Grieg's *French Serenade* (Opus 62 no.3), a piece that, with its obvious and recurring motifs, feels like it should be somewhat corny, but played after the preceding pieces, emerges with a sentimental but victorious final note — to which there was much applause.

Evan resumed with two Italian pieces, *Ideale* by Tosti and *Nebbie* by Respighi. Evan's articulation of the Italian in *Ideale* made for beautiful delivery of so many lines that I can only recommend looking up the lyrics and finding a rendition if you are not familiar. In *Nebbie*, the pair reveal how much they have held back until the explosiveness of both voice and piano conveys the depth of the despair in the lyrics: 'Come ho freddo! Son sola' (How cold am I! I am alone).

Finally, the pair ended the set with *Let the Florid Music Praise!* by Benjamin Britten, another poem (W H Auden) set to music. In the first half, it seems the obvious choice to end on – ebullient, almost cinematic in the way that each performer is able to bring so much flair to the song. The second stanza, however, has a plainer, more reflective setting with sombre tone and lyrics. Encapsulated in this final piece, therefore, is the string that has linked together these songs into the theme of 'Tough Love': a meeting of the bitter and the sweet. Such a repertoire of music whets the appetite for more, perhaps frustrating our desires and yearnings, after which one is inspired to delve further into such oratorios that explore those more complex emotional responses to romance.

The effect of the whole performance, then, was not unlike unrequited love, both fulfilling and frustrating, and the careful balance between light and dark emotions produced a rounded exploration of challenging kinds of love present in art song and opera. Evan and Jonathan were applauded by a healthy congregation on a sunny Wednesday afternoon, and I know I am not the only one very much looking forward to their return for performances in future.

# WHAT'S ON

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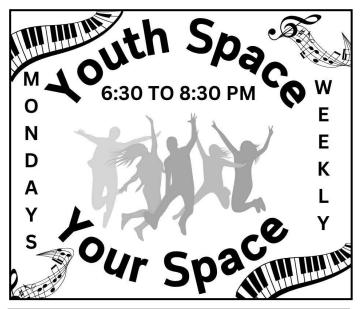
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Elizabeth Hurc



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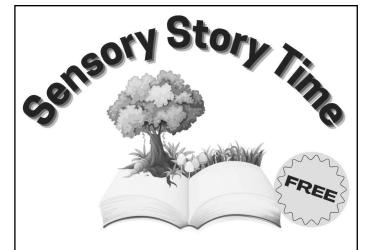
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