

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

September 2025

Volume 46 Issue 9

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(where sold)



Congratulations!



On Sunday August 10th – four years to the day since Dominic was licensed as our Priest-in-Charge – we were privileged to host a most joyous service of Choral Evensong, during which he finally became Rector of the Benefice of Heveningham with Ubbeston, Huntingfield and Cookley. Archdeacon Rich Henderson presided over Dominic's installation, as well as the Commissioning & Recommissioning of Elders, and our tiny church was packed with worshippers from across the Blyth Valley Team. We were grateful to Jason Busby (who finds astounding depths in our simple organ) and also to the choir of St. Mary's Halesworth for leading the spirited hymn-singing. Our thanks to everyone who joined us (some from more than 50 miles away!): it was wonderful to see the church so full and we were delighted that so many stayed to chat afterwards over a glass of wine, enjoying the warm evening sun. This was a truly special occasion for us here in Cookley and one that will linger long in our collective memory (more photos on p.23).

Catriona Chase, Cookley PCC

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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Telephone 01986 875941/07752 275328 or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com for further details

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

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

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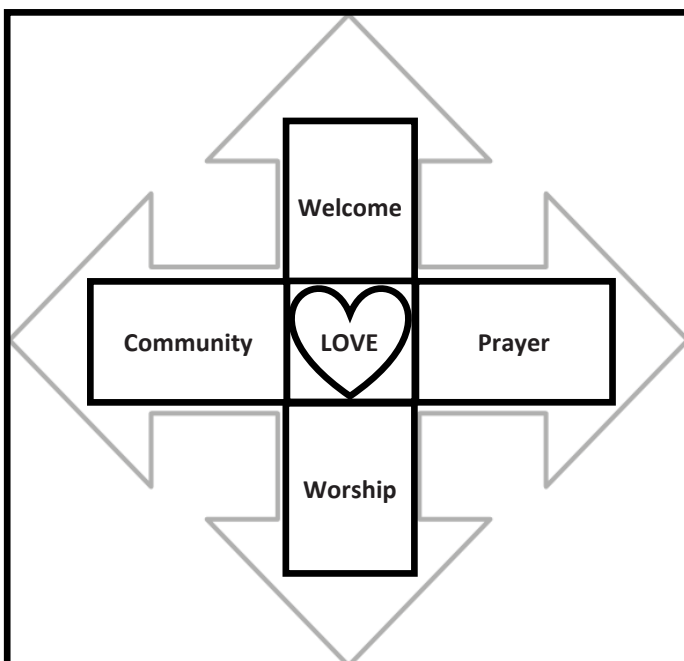
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St. Mary's Church Halesworth

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
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CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish



September Lectionary

Sunday 7th:

Traditional Communion – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

2 Cor. 3. 4-9 (KJV)
Mark 7. 31-37 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Jer. 18. 1-11 (NRSV)
Luke 14. 25-33 (NRSV)

Sunday 14th:

Traditional Communion – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Gal. 3. 16-22 (KJV)
Luke 10. 23b-37 (KJV)

Holy Communion - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Jer. 4. 11-1, 22-28 (NRSV)
Luke 15. 1-10 (NRSV)

Sunday 21st :

Traditional Communion – Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Red)

2 Cor. 4. 1-6 (KJV)
Matt. 9.9-13 (KJV)

Holy Communion – Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Red)

Prov 3. 13-18 (NRSV)
Matt 9. 9-13 (NRSV)

Sunday 28th

Traditional Communion – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Gal. 6.11-end (KJV)
Matt 6.24-end (KJV)

Holy Communion – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Jer. 32. 1-3a, 6-15 (NRSV)
Luke 16. 19-end (NRSV)

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, HALESWORTH

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

Worship in the Blyth Valley in September 2025				
CW – Year C Continuous New Testament	7 th CW & BCP – Twelfth after Trinity (Green)	14 th CW & BCP – Thir- teenth after Trinity (Green)	21 st CW & BCP – Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Red)	28 th CW & BCP – Fifteenth After Trinity (Green)
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Great Communion Adventure Linda and Pauline	8am Traditional Com- munion Dominic 10am Back to Church Sunday Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Com- munion Dominic 10am Creation Care (Iona) Alison A
St Peter Group				
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Gary and Chris	6pm Taize Alison A	6pm Evensong Veronica M
Wenhaston St Peter		10.30am Morning Worship Methodist Church	10am Holy Communion Linda	
Bramfield St Andrew				10am Holy Communion Dominic
Blyford All Saints			10am Wild Church Jim	
Thorington St Peter		6pm Sung Evensong Dominic		
St Andrew Grp				
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Edmund		10am Holy Communion Linda
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Alison A		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D
Spexhall St Peter			10am Harvest Festival Edmund	
Linstead St Margaret			10am Holy Communion Alison A	
St Michael Grp				
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Desmond	
Heveningham St Margaret		10am Traditional Communion Dominic		
Huntingfield St Mary				10am Harvest Festival Edmund
Walpole St Mary				10am Morning Prayer Conor

Additional Services: 9.30am, Thursdays, Morning Prayer, St Andrew, Bramfield. 10am Wednesdays, Holy Communion, St Mary's, Halesworth. 7pm Saturday 20th September Harvest Festival with Dean Joe Hawes, Wissett

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

27 Meadow Gardens, Beccles, NR34 9PA.

Tel: 07921 540170

Sept 7th Miss Thelma Waller

Sept 14th Iain McKillop US

**Sept 21st The Revd Robert Soanes
HC**

Sept 28th The Revd Les Richards

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am

(unless stated otherwise)

ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE

St Edmund King & Martyr

Roman Catholic Church,

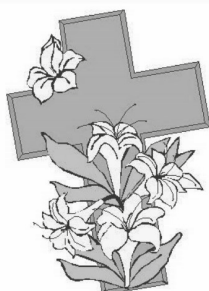
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth

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 SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th	11am Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon. Communion (then in the Park)
Tuesday 9th	10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning Worship
Friday 12th	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 14th	11am Gathered Worship with "Through Faith Mission Team 3pm Bramfield Chapel
Tuesday 16th	10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning Worship
Friday 19th	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 21st	11.00am Gathered HARVEST Worship Minister Jon Sermon
Tuesday 23rd	10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning Worship
Friday 26th	9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and Zoom, followed by Coffee Morning
Sunday 28th	11am Gathered Worship TBA
Tuesday 30th	10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft, followed by Morning Worship

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 776—044—1926,

Passcode 811885



Baptism
*Is baptism for me and
my child?*

Wednesdays from 10th
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 hope I am not too early in using the phrase 'Back to School'? I remember as a child the clothes shops and stationers hardly waited until the summer term had ended before they started plastering it across their premises and column inches.

The good working relationships the schools have with the churches is one of the many pleasures I enjoy in serving as a priest in the Blyth Valley. Generally we have governors on all our boards and Open the Book and individuals take Collective Worship and Assemblies and offer other input. Do pray for interest in our Team Vicar advert going national this week. They will hopefully join Holton Primary's board. We learn from the schools too. The education system like other public services nationalised from Christian institutions post-war is seen as a tax-burden rather than our collective responsibility. Nevertheless, the accountable wisdom apparent in its nurturing of our pupils and their families in the three 'R's, humanities and issues related to Personal, Social and Health and Education is exemplary. This was thrown into stark relief recently when I read a prayer that adults would teach children how to be decent people. I felt I had to turn the plea around as I'm afraid in many respects it is our youth that we might pray may teach us older folk instead.

Only the other day I heard a professional trainer state that we have to hear something seven times before it goes in. I suspect that is if there are no emotional or other actors to make the message stick. Part of the challenge is that we think we know what we know, we think we've good reason to know it and we think that others think the same. The other side of the coin is what others tell us and how they tell us and what they hide from us. Knowledge is power and Wisdom is the Lord's.

A key message of the Adam and Eve account in Genesis 1 is that the two things that make God God are the two trees. The deity's immortality – the tree of life, and their wisdom – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The irony is that the fall, or original sin, is not physical intimacy, but rather people getting on their high horse and assuming they are speaking for God's wisdom by saying that. You know what they say: pride comes before a fall. One of the fascinating features of well educated people is that they quite often will tell you that more they learn the more they realise they need

to learn. I would argue that that is especially the case for church and national leadership. God's ways are not our ways. If this piques your interest do look out for flyers coming through your doors promoting Back to Church Sunday and join us at your local church on Sunday the 21st of September. We certainly should be very careful, if not repentant, if we find we are doing anything destructive in God's name.

At the very least we need to understand how limited our capacity to grasp the world around us is. Our senses are limited. We can only process a number of still images a second which is why spoked wheels may appear to go backwards and it is possible to animate stick men in dog ears of exercise books. We can only see a limited part of the electromagnetic spectrum, and only hear a limited range of frequencies. Much of what we perceive as solid or linear in time and space, is not! If that is not limiting enough, we are unconscious for several hours a day as we sleep!

In scripture, the inability to recognise our human limitations and live within them giving worship to the one that has wisdom and eternal life, is called idolatry or blasphemy. Those that make dead-end images, offering dead-end policies, solutions, addictions, whose eyes do not see or mouths which don't speak will become like them. Those blind who lead the blind speaking untruths and falsehood will fall into the ditch together.

So let us give thanks to our teachers in class, on the football-field, the ballroom, the physio ward. Let us agree that they should be paid and resourced to be satisfied and fruitful in their calling. Then let us recognise also our need to be humble with ourselves, understanding our lack of comprehension and knowledge. May we choose to learn more about the things we pontificate on and assert. Who knows we may realise that, not only are there more valid answers to the question at hand, but that in fact there are more questions in the first place. Rather than claiming Godly knowledge, so killing our spirituality, let us instead approach the tree of life seeking the spirit of wisdom freely given in, and through, what God has done in Jesus by the Holy Spirit: as we pray, read, serve together.

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

Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
10am - 11.30am

**HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD
UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES**

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends

As I write this, I am about to leave for a three week trip to Uganda on mission. By the time you get to read I will be back. I will be arranging events for feedback. This time I am taking a group of five, all from Suffolk.

We will be experiencing the exciting worship life of Ugandan churches, visiting church-run schools and an orphanage, doing mentoring with Pastors in training and teaching day seminars on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit.

There will be a feedback event on Saturday 20 September @ 7.30pm



While I am away, a team will continue the preparations for the "Awake" Suffolk Coastal Mission. This takes place Saturday 6 – Sunday 14 September 2025.

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.

We have exciting 'big name' speakers coming, a fun event and picnic in the park, an opportunity to "Grill a Christian" where people can raise their faith questions. Also a Healing Service – very good for inviting "spiritual explorers". And we have Edgar Sewter Primary School coming into church, visits to Conquest Art and the Brownies and a **free BBQ!**

See more details on the What's on page.

And the mission team will be out and about in the town all week, as well as attending the events – and probably some events @ St Mary's while they are here.

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 with you.

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.

So please, whichever church you are part of, pray over what is coming and who you can invite. You can collect flyers to use as invitations from us.

Blessings

Jon



Revd Jon Sermon,
Minister of Halesworth & Bramfield URC
and North Lowestoft URC
also Chair of Trustees: Romans 1.11 Trust

See page 25 for further information about this weekend

September 26/27/28

Halesworth

Climate Energy Action Weekend



Creation Care



**An Iona Service to celebrate our
care for God's Creation through
Eco Church.**

10am

Sunday 28th September

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN

FUNERALS/ASHES INTERMENT:

Irene Carstens at Halesworth Cemetery
Walter 'Bruce' Attenborough at Waveney
Memorial Park

BAPTISM:

Crystal Ellis at Southwold Beach
Ryan Narey at Southwold Beach
Clementine Holdcroft at Wenhamston
Evie and Willow Hill at Walpole
Espen Sjøvoll at Walpole

Curate's Corner

It is said that when the Emperor of Rome demanded of St Lawrence that he give him all the treasures of the Church, St Lawrence gave all of the riches under his control to the sick, widowed, and poor. When the time came for him to present the riches of the Church to the Emperor, he instead presented all those who had received alms, stating that these people were the true treasures of the Church.

This story certainly makes a good point: that for all our historic buildings and ancient traditions, it is His people that God truly regards as treasure.

Nevertheless, we are privileged in this part of Suffolk to have in our Churches an extraordinary number of rare and unusual treasures. A short column like this does not provide space to mention a treasure from every one of our Churches, but to provide a few examples: the copy of Erasmus' Paraphrase of the Gospels kept in unusually fine condition at Chediston, the effigy preserved at Heveningham, the Wenhamston Doom, and the finely-decorated rood screen which invites us towards the chancel at Bramfield.

Such treasures certainly impose a level of responsibility on those who care for them: to preserve them for the next generation, to keep them secure, and to interpret them as best we can. Yet they also stand as a testimony to the sheer weight of history that infuses our churches. At our Baptism, each of us was grafted into the great family of the Church. That family has had moments of honour and deep holiness, as well as moments which leave us rather scratching our heads. Yet it is the family we have been grafted into, and there is no other like it. Treasures such as these are our family albums. They are tangible memories of the story of the Church thus far, and they remind us that it is now our turn to play our part in that story.

Edmund



**If you need help from
Waveney Foodbank
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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);
Wenhamston 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



Editorial extracts from
MU Newsletter No 66
J2025
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No 249726

Wenhaston Mother's Union

After an enjoyable Summer Party when we also had the Wave of Prayer Service at Spindleberry in July we followed this by going out for Tea in August! We all enjoyed a Tea of our choice at the Boating Lake Cafe in Southwold, it was a pleasant Afternoon on a very hot day in an extremely crowded Southwold where parking was at a premium! In September we shall be back at our usual Meeting place, the Schoolroom at the Methodist Chapel in the Village. Our Speaker will be Dorothy Curtis who is talking to us about her latest Book which I am sure will be interesting. By then Autumn will be nearly with us and we shall no doubt be talking about Christmas!

Margaret G.

The Blyth Valley Churches Joint Council

There will be a meeting of the Joint Council on Wednesday 3rd September at the Heveningham Hub at 7.30pm. It is so important that all churches in the benefices are represented as we really want this Council to inspire and drive forward our plans for growth and development in the Blyth Valley Churches. We all contribute to the Council's budget, so come and let us know your views to develop our work. When we meet together the support and encouragement we give and receive from each other certainly makes us stronger. Then we can report back to our PCCs.

Keith Noakes, Lay Vice-Chair

September at Halesworth Library

September is back to school month, which is a fantastic time to get a library card! With your free library card, you can get up to 20 books at a time, request books for free from other libraries within Suffolk, use our computers and access a whole variety of online resources to support schoolwork. Speak with a member of staff to find out more about what you can do with your library card, even if you're not going back to school!

The Friends of Halesworth Library will be hosting local author, Jennie Fontana, on Thursday 18th September at 2:30pm. Jennie worked as a teacher in many settings from primary schools to prisons. She was a tutor in Creative Writing and Poetry for Open College of the Arts and University of Sussex's Women's Studies Access Course. Her poems have been widely published and she has given readings and held residencies at festivals and poetry events. Join us on Thursday 18th September at 2:30pm to hear more about Jennie's long poem, The Great Alignment.

There will also be a session of Sociable Sundays on 7th and 21st September 10.30-12.30pm and Board Games Cafe on Monday 29th September 14:00-16:30, both hosted and run by volunteers of the Friends of Halesworth Library.

Not forgetting our regular activities and drop-ins! Every Tuesday 10-11:30am there is a free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. Every Wednesday 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm, staff can provide dates. Lego Club is on every Saturday 12-1pm and Family Board Games Club every Sunday 10:30-11:30am. You can find advice drop-ins from East Suffolk Council Customer services every Tuesday 10.00-16.00 and Barclays Bank on Wednesdays 09.00-17.00. Citizens Advice have a drop-in every other Tuesday 10.00-12.00, please ask a member of staff for future dates.

Did you know that the library can deliver books to your home? If you're unable to visit us at the library, one of our volunteers can come to you. Please contact us on 01986 506062 for further information.

Catherine Draper



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Latest News from Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund



Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. of the H.D.C.F. will take place on Monday 8th September. It will take place in The Stables, Angel Hotel, and will begin at 2.00pm, to be followed by refreshments. All interested parties are very welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there and telling you about all we have been doing in the last year.

Next Film – it's a week earlier!

Our regular film shows are usually the third Wednesday of the month, but in September it will be a week earlier, showing on Wednesday 10th.

The film will be Penguin Lessons, starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. It is a wonderful comedy, based on a true story. According to one review "if there were Oscars for animals the penguin should have won one". As usual, doors open at 1.30 for a 2.00 start, and entry is by £5 donation.

iChameleon Shop

This will be running from Thursday 21st August to Wednesday 27th August. We are very happy to receive good quality items to sell, including good quality clean clothes and shoes.

Groups and Activities

Last month I gave a list of our groups and activities. Since then there has been one major change. Singing with Friends will now be every Thursday from 2.00 – 3.30 at the new Patrick Stead Day Centre on London Rd. Also, for those interested in the Friday Day Care, booking is essential.

Charity Shield Golf Tournament

On Friday 8th August David Tower, Senior Captain at Halesworth Golf Club, staged the Captain's Charity Shield competition. Thanks to David, and the incredible generosity of all the golfers who participated, over £800 was raised for Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund. We are so grateful to David and everyone involved in this wonderful event.

For information regarding our work and activities please call 07990 199632 or email info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

You can also keep up to date by viewing www.halesworthdementia.co.uk or visiting our Facebook page.

John Wood

Family Carers Support Group

Facilitated by

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund

Helping people with memory problems and their family carers

Charity No. 1170-477

Every Friday 2-3.30pm

Co-op Community Room

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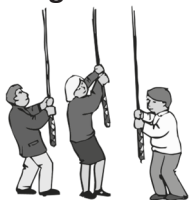
9am - 1pm
OCTOBER 11TH
NOVEMBER 8TH
DECEMBER 13TH

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From the Ringing Chamber

The last month has been full of quarter peals for me. Three quarters of an hour is long enough for a piece of ringing to settle down, and ringers to familiarise themselves with the bells and the method being rung, without the physical tiredness that arises towards the end of a full three hour peal.

Some ringing friends, ringing under the banner "Friends of Derick Obergene" (I thought it must be an anagram but, apparently, it's just a silly made up name) were holding their annual quarter peal week in Suffolk, based at Darsham, and I had been invited to ring in what promised to be (and were) some excellent quarters. One of these was on home turf at Halesworth and the method was Penning's Bob Triples, not at all well-known and far more complicated than anything our local band would ever ring, but like all the others I was involved in, the ringing was tip top. It should have been: I found myself ringing next to the person who had rung the 2½ ton tenor at Bristol in the winning team at this year's National 12bell contest. The gang also rang quarters at all the other ringable Blyth Valley towers, except Heveningham where the method proved just too tricky.

Back with the locals we rang a good quarter of Little Bob Major at Halesworth for our regular first Sunday slot, but as with most of these there were only three Blyth Valley residents ringing out of eight, which demonstrates why it is so difficult to get enough ringers on a Sunday morning when everyone else is at their own tower.

About every other year the North East District of the Suffolk Guild has a quarter peal day, and this year those not on holiday were frog-marched to ring something somewhere. Michelle even flew back from Singapore specially to ring at Wenhaston. The quarter here doubled as ringing for a wedding, thus killing two birds with one stone. Other quarters were rung at Rendham, Metfield and Worlingham.

Sunday morning ringing in August has been at Wenhaston (twice), Chediston and Wissett. We have continued alternating our Tuesday practices at Halesworth and Wenhaston and good progress has been made at both. A fifth Tuesday saw us at Heveningham where we worked on a new method from scratch and were pleased to be able to ring this successfully by the end of the evening. PJG



St Margaret's, Heveningham Bell Ringers



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**** NEW VENUE ****

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LUNCHTIME RECITALS 2025
12noon refreshments | 12.30pm recital

10TH SEPTEMBER
Julie Oxborough and friends

8TH OCTOBER
Katalin Prentice - Soprano

12TH NOVEMBER
Kirkley Trio

10TH DECEMBER
St Mary's Handbell ringers

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:
www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth.org.uk

Taize Service "Caring for Creation"

Service 6pm Sunday 21st September

St Peter's Church, Holton IP19 8NG



Join us for this simple service of reflection and worship to mark the start of the Climate Action Conference in the Blyth Valley.

Music workshop at 4pm (open to all who want to help lead the music through singing or playing an instrument)

Refreshments before the service from 5pm (open to all)



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Walking the Labyrinth – A Time for Reflection



2pm Monday 1st September 2025

St Peter's Church, Holton



Theme for reflective craft: Mapping

Everyone Welcome

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

For more information contact: Revd. Canon Alison Alder
at revalialder@gmail.com or 01502 478855

Future meetings:

Monday 6th October

Monday 3rd November

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!).

The 2025-26 subscription is valid from the May'25 to the April'26 issue (incl).

Payment can be made to your local delivery person or to Administrator in the Blyth Valley Churches' office in St Mary's Halesworth.

(The office is open on from Mon to Thurs, 9am - 1pm).

If you prefer, you can pay the fee directly into the *BVTimes* bank account please.

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HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

In this month's update we can start with some great news.

Although it seems a while ago now, at the end of June our street collection in the town on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th at the Co-op raised a brilliant £603.48p. Thank you to everyone who stopped and contributed to this amount, it was so very kind of you all.

Thank you to committee members Helen and Maxine for organising everything and to everyone who gave their time to collect for us on what was two very hot days. I know some of you were concerned about us but please be reassured that everyone was aware of the damage the sun can do and they were all well prepared.

Our next piece of good news is that our week in the I-Chameleon pop up shop in July was a fantastic success. We hope if you visited the shop you managed to find some bargains and with your generosity we raised a brilliant £2455.53p.

We had something different each day outside the shop.

Thank you to Gill and Paula for organising Saturday Cake Day and thank you to everyone who baked for us.

Thank you to Jane Bastow for bringing such an array of lovely plants on Friday which is always very popular.

A big thank you to Halesworth Ukulele Band for giving up their time to play for us on Tuesday morning. It was lovely to see so many people stopping to listen and generously popping something in our collecting bucket. They played a variety of songs and it was such a great atmosphere in the town.

Our next big event is at the end of August so we will let you know how we got on at The Maize Maze by Torchlight in the next edition of the magazine.

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you just some of the early detection research that your generosity in supporting our events is making possible. As you know the best way to improve cancer survival is detecting and diagnosing it earlier. A simple breath test is being developed to detect stomach cancers. It will identify the gases produced by stomach cancer cells as an early sign of cancer. A hydrogel flavoured lollipop is being developed to diagnose mouth cancer using saliva rather than invasive biopsies. Work is being carried out on a urine test that amazingly could help doctors spot lung cancer at its very early stages. Your support is making all this vital research possible which will save lives and we are truly very grateful to you all. Thank you all very much. For more information please contact me, Dawn Davis 01986 873640.



The Halesworth Ukulele Band

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NEWBY BOOKS ON SALE

"THE CENTURY I SAW" by Donald Newby

£9.99 from Halesworth & District Museum, and
Halesworth Bookshop. *Proceeds to local charities.*

"HALESWORTH STREET and PLACE NAMES" by Derek Newby

£6.99 from Halesworth & District Museum,
Halesworth Bookshop and Heathside Stores Wenhamston.
Proceeds to Halesworth & District Museum.

"MEMORIES & STORIES OF OLD HALESWORTH"

by James W Newby
£7.99 available from St Mary's Church.
Proceeds to St Mary's Halesworth Regeneration etc.

"The LIFE and TIMES of DEREK NEWBY"

£9.99, an autobiography.
Proceeds to local charities and EA Air Ambulance.

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

Pet Service and Ringers at Heveningham (not at the same time!)

I have to say, I think the Pet Service has to be my favourite service of the year. It's a chance for us to come together and celebrate the lives of our pets and all animals and with it being a family service, it gives children a chance to see other animals up close that they may not often have a chance to meet. On Sunday, we welcomed a pony, goat and sheep plus a chicken and 7 dogs. The guest of honour was Teddy the Tortoise, who once again wasn't happy being enclosed and kept looking for his escape route. We heard a wonderful story about Richard the dog who was rescued from Cyprus and flown into Gatwick Airport to join his new family. He was a real sweetheart and it was lovely to see him blessed. Jim and Connor held a wonderful service and blessed each animal including some beloved soft toys. We were lucky with the weather and it was a beautiful day. Spending the time outdoors, under the trees, with our pets makes this such a special service.

Towards the end of July, we welcomed a visiting bell ringing team who were touring Suffolk (see photo on page 10). This group comes from all over the country and meets up to spend 9 days ringing at our lovely churches. On the morning of 30th July, we welcomed Samuel from Market Weighton, Claire from Hertford, Patrick from York, Chris from Nottingham and Jemima from York. The bells rang out for 45 minutes and sounded really good to me although they said they hadn't quite achieved what they wanted to do. But even if it wasn't quite right for them, they sounded good and I love the fact that this group gets together and travels around to enjoy new areas and churches. It must be a great experience.

If you ever fancy trying bell ringing you can get in touch with the Halesworth team for more information.

Dates for your diary :

14th September - Traditional Communion

11th October - Produce Market and coffee morning.

Bring your own makes and bakes to sell at our coffee morning. More details to follow.

12th October - Harvest Festival

With thanks as always for all your support.

Jeanette Griffin



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

A Church where everyone belongs: It has filled by heart with joy in the last month to see St Mary's Church in Halesworth packed with all ages throughout the summer holiday. From hosting the community lunch to having a family picnic with 75 there! To popping in in the afternoon, and having youth hanging in youth space, a group of parents and tots in the children's corners, tourists wandering around with cameras and someone quietly praying or flower arranging. This is often what I see in an afternoon whilst working in the office, or the young and old that come in and cannot help but tinker on the piano. Or the Halesworth Swifts holding an event, or MENCAP rehearsing their play. To quote one of our youth space members, "They were really good!". They will be performing soon so keep your eyes peeled for the date.

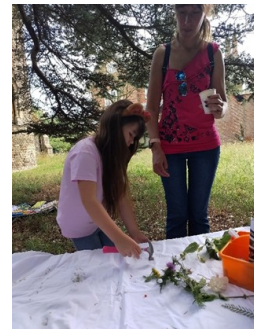
It is a good reminder to me of our slogan, Community in Church, Church in Community. But also, that God's church is for everyone, dare I challenge us to think beyond our norms. It is not just a space for the white middle-classed got it all sorted people, traditionally we may have experienced in the Church. But a space for all where everyone can find a home, a community to belong, to be loved and to feel connected. After all Jesus didn't stand with the rich and those that had it sorted, he sat with the lepers, the Samaritans, the prostitutes, the broken, the hungry. I passionately feel that is what we are called to do, yes sometimes it brings a little mess. But here's the thing we live in a messy world we cannot be immune to that, but we are called in our actions to be Christlike. To me that means feeding the hungry, standing with the broken, opening the doors for all, gently mentoring the youth, being a listening ear or simply thinking what would Jesus do?

Just today I was chatting with some visitors who mentioned something as being disrespectful. And I gently challenged them and I challenge us, also to consider what lense we look through. Instead of seeing it as disrespectful or wrong, perhaps when engaging with our community that is coming in such as our youth, we can look a different way. Perhaps, instead, let's consider that we are learning to share the space, because it's all of ours. The visitors loved this learning to share a space for everyone and so do I! Sometimes we might get it wrong, but do you know what that's okay. We are learning to share a space together and that is exciting. Sometimes, we might have to get alongside our young and new growing family of Christ and learn together, teach and share.



Thorington Steps into the Wild: We kicked off the summer at St Peter's Church in Thorington stepping into the wild of the churchyard. We wandered around the churchyard finding a variety of wildflowers including, yarrow, creeping thistles, lords-and-ladies and germander speedwell. We did some hammer art (or Hapa Zome) printing the wildflowers onto a table cloth. We also went on a bug hunt and saw lots of incredible bugs from shield bugs, to ladybirds, a wood wasp, bees of different varieties, crickets and a grasshopper. Thorington is a beautiful sanctuary to wildlife and we were so lucky to see so much wildlife, whilst we played and explored. We even saw some butterflies and tried to identify them; this was much trickier as they tend to fly away! The children also enjoyed some lovely painting and crafts in the beauty of the churchyard.

Youth Space, Your Space: Youth Space has continued to grow and grow. Not only are we reaching anywhere between 24 and 30 each week, but we are seeing our youth change and grow and as a result what we offer. It is great to see the young'uns take more responsibility. They come in and prepare their own fruit now and salad. A couple of weeks ago they completely made the cous cous themselves for dinner. We are so grateful to receive a further nearly £1000 from Halesworth Town Council to invest in Youth Space, we will be using this money to continue to follow their interests such as buying more planters for outside of church, extending our pamper station, more resources for the shoe polishing station, and more instruments such as guitars. Just to name a few things the money is going on, we are truly thankful for the support we receive from the Town Council.



Is Baptism for Me and My Child? In September Revd Dominic Doble and Pauline (Children, Family and Youth Worker) will be starting a course on the 17th September 2025 called Is Baptism for me and my child. Bring your child along for stories, song and activities and a chance to discuss baptism and it's meaning. This will be for 4 weeks at 11:30 am on a Wednesday. We already have a couple of people booked on, if you are interested, please email pauline@growingtogetherearlyyears.co.uk.

Bible Sensory Story Time: Our final bible sensory story time of the summer term was on 18th July 2025. This was a lovely time where we came together and focused on the parable of the lost sheep. We had a time of telling the story in two ways, once with a sensory story tray and once using the parachute. The adults had a time of sharing and discussion; we worshipped, sung and prayed to God. It was a truly beautiful end to the summer term.

Family Picnics: We would like to say a huge thank you to those that have given money to make the family picnics happen. Thank you, Councillor Annette Dunning whose locality budget gave us just under £1,000, towards cooking equipment, toys and resources. Thank you to those who supported the stall in town that raise £471, to the Halesworth Rotary Club who gave us £450. Also, thank you to the Blakemoore Foundation (Halesworth Spar) that gave us a £50 voucher, Bramfield butchers who gave us sausages for one week. To those who have also personally donated towards food. The great success is down to you, so a massive thank you.



Church Mice Tots get Growing: The summer holidays may mean that Church Mice Tots is on pause, as we gather instead for all ages and family picnics on a Thursday. But we still have times of togetherness and community, 5 of the families came together to set up our new planters. One for salad and one for herbs outside St Mary's Church in Halesworth and you may have even seen a tiny one or two doing some watering over the past few weeks! We love seeing our families become more and more involved together in the everyday, even including just popping into church on the way home to water the plants. (Or lovingly drown them!).



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

Special Film Matinee of PENGUIN LESSONS

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penguin should have won one"*

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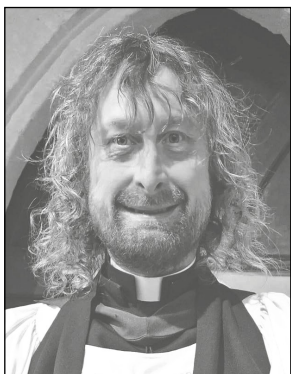
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H

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The Blyth Valley Churches' office in

**St Mary's Church, Halesworth
is OPEN from**

Mondays to Thursdays, 9am - 1pm.

Tel 01986 875941.

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Blyth Valley Churches

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

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Your donation goes
towards the work of the
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Holton	Chris Knevett	01986 872467
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Malcolm Heath	01986 785289
Spexhall	Keith Noakes	07939 527340
Thorington	Mike Gower	01502 478078
Walpole	Ken Allen Lee Hill	07710 779146 07713 450078
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Mary Pester	01986 873173 07787 552064/ 01986 835869

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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

FOR DETAILS OF SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS,

PLEASE VISIT BLYTH VALLEY CHURCHES WEBSITE:

www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

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



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Blyth Valley Times

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WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

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Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

The Revd 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

We are delighted to welcome Roy Tricker back to All Saints Blyford on Friday September 19th. Roy will entertain us with a guided tour of the church starting at 6pm. Doors open at 5.30pm. Entry by donation (no ticket required).

We shall have our monthly Stall on the Green on Saturday 20th September, and we shall be celebrating wild harvest at Wild Church on Sunday 21st September at 10am.

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 Rev'd Dominic Doble.

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
snowmein@mac.com

We were delighted to hold the fete again this year on the Village Green in aid of both the Church and Village Green charities.

We had a well stocked raffle, stalls, such as toys, cakes, hog roast and burgers, books, jumble, jewellery, astronomy, plants, knitted items, games and tug of war. We were lucky to have the Black Deek Band and

Rumburgh Morris Dancers too who kept us well entertained. This year we had an exhibition of Art from Bramfield Primary and Bramfield House Schools

and Bramfield Playschool, all of which were marked and prizes awarded.

Thanks so much to Bramfield Meats for donating the Pig for the Hog Roast and all who helped with the serving of this. It was absolutely brilliant. And thanks too to the Wheeler family for allowing us to park at their farm.

Thanks have to go to all the helpers who helped with the set up and all of you who helped on the day. We really appreciate all your help to make it such a wonderful afternoon for the community. It was brilliant. We raised just over £512 for the Church and £512 for the Green. **Jinnie Barham**

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.



Upcoming Events:

Ecotherapy East

Foxtail Meadow Community Day

We will be having a Community Day on 20th September. All the informed is on our website

here <https://ecotherapyeast.co.uk/events/community-days-on-foxtail-meadow/>

Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers

janeeversj@gmail.com

See front page and page 23!

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

Church Life in Full Swing and on the Move! Over the past month, our regular pattern of worship has been as lively and varied as ever. We've shared Holy Communion, joined together for Morning and Evening Prayer, and enjoyed the Great Communion Adventure. Breakfast Church brought fellowship over coffee and croissants, while Evensong gave us time for beautiful, reflective worship.

Our wider church life has been just as rich. Youth Space continues to offer a safe, welcoming environment for our younger members, Tiny Tots keeps the smallest ones busy with songs and play, and our family picnics have been a lovely way to relax together. The lunchtime recital in August by Jill Crossland filled St Mary's with music, and our bell ringers have kept the joyful sound of the church alive in the town.

On Sunday 10th August, your two Churchwardens of St Mary's were commissioned as Lay Elders at St Michael and All Angels, Cookley. This

was during a special service to institute, induct, and install Revd Dominic Doble as Rector of the Heveningham Benefice (having served as Priest-in-Charge for the past four years), to commission new Lay Elders and recommission existing ones. A heartfelt thank you to all who took part and supported the occasion.

A date for your diary! On 12th September 2025, Jason and his daughters will be taking part in Ride and Stride, the annual sponsored event raising money for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Participants can choose to support their own local church, in our case, St Mary's as well as the wider Trust. Please do sponsor them generously and help keep our historic churches in great shape for the future. How to Sponsor Jason & His Daughters: You can contact Jason directly to pledge your support. Every pound raised will be split between St Mary's and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Your generosity will help preserve our beautiful church for future generations and spur the team on as they walk and cycle between Suffolk's historic places of worship!

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.



Looking ahead, we have some exciting news: from October, the Halesworth Produce Market will be moving from the Rifle Hall to St Mary's. This central location should give the market greater visibility and hopefully bring more people through the church to browse and buy fresh local produce.

We also have two special events coming up in early October: Saturday 4th October – Tom Horton back on the

organ for a Silent Film Night & Sunday 5th October, 10am – Harvest Festival.

Heveningham

Correspondent

Jeanette Griffin 01986 798280
stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com

See page 13!

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

jill.hewlett1@btinternet.com

When I was writing the column for August in mid-July I mentioned how dry and parched the fields were looking. Almost the very next day it started to rain and we had a sustained wet patch of weather. I am thinking of hiring myself out as a 'bringer of rain'!!

On the 10th August at a service of choral evensong at St Michael's Church, Cookley, Revd Dominic Doble was Installed as Rector of Cookley, Heveningham and Huntingfield by Archdeacon Rich Henderson. As you may know these three parishes have been attached to the Blyth Valley Team of Churches for some time but are now officially under Dominic's care. Congratulations to him. At the same service new and existing Lay Elders were commissioned.

Congratulations to Chris and Gary Atkins on their commissioning as Lay Elders along with Conor Smith from St Mary's Halesworth and the recommissioning of Jason Busby,

Alison Cackett, Veronica Downing, Malcolm Heath and Eileen Salmon. Janet Walkey has stepped down from this role as she and Malcolm are preparing to move; thank you to Janet for all she has done over the years.

The Children's Society

Having counted (and recounted) all the contributions received for this year's box collection, I am pleased to say that I have paid in just shy of £600. That's a great result, so a big thank you to everyone who contributed. If you still have a donation to make, it's not too late ☺

Chris Atkins

Christian Aid

Climate Change is affecting us all, not least the indigenous communities in Guatemala. Last May we were given the opportunity to help them by donating via Christian Aid towards specialist training for their farmers, who learn to grow resilient crops, make fertilizer, and **conserve water**. Together they are protecting their family farms and futures, so one day, no family will worry about their children going without food.

Thank you from Christian Aid for your support, which means more communities can unlock climate-resilient farming methods, build their resilience to extreme weather, and take back control of their harvest. In Holton you raised £275.40 of which £215 was Gift Aided. Together in the Blyth Valley, we raised a total of £3,802.10. If you would like to help/join the Halesworth Christian Aid Group, we would love to hear from you.

Jackie Watts jackiewatts1@gmail.com

St Peter's Photo-board

You will have seen the board at the back of the church with photographs of St Peter's People, and a heading which welcomes visitors. We have realised that there are some familiar faces who may be new to the church, or have been missed when we took these pictures originally; and we'd like to have a more complete record.

John Hewlett will have a camera with him on Sunday 24th August, and subsequent Sundays when we have a service (and maybe at other times in Halesworth). With your permission he will photograph you and, again with your permission, put your picture on the board. There is no identification on

the board, neither name nor address.
Thank you if/when you agree to this.

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.



Dates for your diary:

Monday 1st September at St Peter's and on the Paddock, the Labyrinth Event from 2pm until c. 4pm. The theme for September is "Mapping". Come along for a time of prayer, quiet contemplation, walk the labyrinth and enjoy being creative. If you are in St Mary's Church, Halesworth look at the display of some of the products of our time together. All welcome. Refreshments provided.

Saturday 13th September Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride, from 9am to 5pm. Join Ride and Stride and sponsor your cycle or walk to raise money for Suffolk's wonderful church buildings. Suffolk has over 500 churches, chapels and meeting rooms across all denominations and you will be amazed at the local history you will find in each and every one. Last year £200,000 was raised, half your donation will go directly to your chosen church and the other half will support the grant-giving function of the Trust. Jackie Watts is our organiser, she will be cycling in Hampshire, so please sponsor her. At the moment she is our only cyclist/walker so if you feel able, please cycle or walk and get sponsored. I have walked round the churches in Ipswich and John has done the same in Norwich, so have a think and see what you can do. It is also possible to be sponsored for sitting in St Peter's to welcome visiting cyclists/walkers. Please let Jackie know if you are able to take part in any way.

Blyth Valley Times

Sunday 12th October will be our Harvest Thanksgiving, with a bring-and-share lunch in the Village Hall.

Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke
sally.clarke@live.com

Firstly, we extend a welcome to Dominic who after a lovely Installation service at Cookley Church on 10th Aug officially became our Rector. For the last four years he has been our Priest in Charge and it has been great to work with him and to get to know him. As Rector his work continues.

At the same service new Elders were commissioned; Gary, Chris and Conner. On the 24th August we welcomed Chris & Gary to lead us in Morning Prayer.

The month of September is stacking up to be a busy one and we hope to welcome as many of you as possible to our;

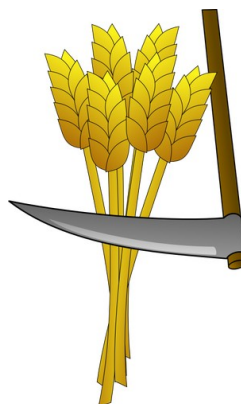
Macmillan Afternoon Tea:

Sat 6th
September
2 - 4pm
Huntingfield
Churchyard
Raising funds for
Macmillan Cancer
Support



Harvest Supper:

Sat 20th
September
6.30 for 7pm
at The HUB.
2 course
homecooked
supper of
game or
chicken & leek
pie (veggie on
request), with
seasonal veg
and
choice of
puddings.
£15pp, children under 12 eat for Free.
BYO drinks. To reserve a seat contact
Emma Ward 01986 785343
A warm welcome awaits you.



Ride and Stride: Sat 13th Sept

And finally, **Harvest Festival:**

Huntingfield Church
21st September at 10am
All Welcome
All Food donations will be passed on to
Halesworth Community Larder.

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

It cannot have escaped your notice that we are raising money to refurbish the inside of St. Margaret's. It is going to cost about £17,000 and, although we are applying for grants, these are only awarded on the condition that we do some serious fundraising ourselves. Tom Horton has offered to give us a concert on our own Kawai organ. Trust me, it will blow your minds. Until I heard Tom put it through its paces, I had no idea what it was capable of. In addition to any mind-blowing, it will blow away any cobwebs you may have and give the bats something to think about – other than messing up the church! If that wasn't enough, there will be fizz and canapés for you to enjoy.

THE ANNUAL LINSTEAD FETE WAS

blessed with perfect conditions, warm, dry but not too hot. It was very well attended, and made a record of £1550 for Village Hall funds, thus ensuring the continuing upkeep of this vital village asset. A major attraction was the cake stall, which is, in my opinion, well in the market for a Michelin star. It is the traditional aspect of our fête which

never fails to endear it to everyone who attends. This was a point made by the chairman of the village hall committee when she was interviewed for local radio. Linstead does not do flashy, but does tradition very well indeed.

Another point that must be stressed is that, in one way or another, the entire village gets involved. There is an acute awareness that it is OUR village hall and its maintenance is entirely up to us all.

TO MY FAINT SURPRISE, I WAS

recommissioned as your lay elder in August, for another three years. Thank you for your support. In 1979 I was the youngest lay elder. Now, I imagine, if not the oldest elder (?), I am certainly the longest serving one.

THE SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES

Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday September 13th. We could do with some more Riders, Striders and Church Sitters. If you are able to help in any of these capacities, please contact Cecilia on 01986 785275. Going back to church redecoration, we hope to apply for a grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Fund, so raising money for it would seem to be a sensible thing to do.

THE SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER IS ON

September 21st at 10.00 a.m. and is Holy Communion. Please also note the following:

THE LINSTAD

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Will be held on

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th

THE LINSTAD GIFT

DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th.

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spexhall

Correspondent Keith Noakes
spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.co
m

*(*Spexhall is thought to be Anglo-Saxon for 'woodpecker')*

Facebook: St Peter's Spexhall and Spexhall Village Hall

It's that time of 'Mellow Fruitfulness' again....

Your woodpecking correspondent has been looking across fields of stubble for ages now, with all the rape, barley and wheat 'gathered in'. Time, of course, for us to gather in church for the Harvest Thanksgiving. All your favourite harvest hymns will be sung, and thanks to Fred's contacts we get some old fashioned wheat sheaves to decorate the church, linking the present with the past. The church mice also love this time of year! Do Join us on Sunday 21st September at 10am. All are very welcome. A harvest thanksgiving drink and nibbles to follow!

All properly in tune

By the time you read this article the organ will have been tuned and have had some maintenance work on it. Our organ tuner seems thoroughly dedicated, even though we haven't got the finest instrument among the churches. Anyone wishing to give a recital please let us know. If you can play hymn tunes, contact us immediately!

I have seen the light

Unfortunately it was all too true that you could, until last month, see light between slates on our roof. With thanks to Mellish for collecting a very long roof ladder supplied by Low Farm Huntingfield and to brave Ben the builder who did what he could to make some repairs. Maybe, just maybe, we may have new roof tiles as part of our restoration project.

Restoration and Renovation

This is something all of us need from time to time, and buildings too. With very grateful thanks to Annie, our pioneering treasurer, who has pursued funding to get us to the stage where our architect has drawn up

plans for what is needed to future-proof our ancient church (and the not so ancient bits) and now it is time to ask for contractors to tell us how much it might cost. We really hope that grant funding will help to cover most of this cost. We are very thankful to those, so far, who have generously contributed to the restoration fund. We will get some essential work done, but we hope for a lot more! Any further donations will, of course, be very gratefully received.

Village Fun Dog Show

As this article is written before the dog show, can I say what an absolute pleasure it was for Tilly to receive the 'Best in Show' rosette. (Clearly this is the daydream of your Woodpecker. I am sure a worthy winner will be found, but if there is any justice it will be Tilly).

It's a Load of Rubbish

Of course anything 'compostable' is far from 'rubbish' and we do get a fair bit of this when people throw away dead flowers from graves etc. Woodpecker has it on good advice that the Parish Council has very kindly offered to pay for a green recycling bin this year to be used by the church (and the village hall), so a green bin should soon be appearing. We must all remember to put the right thing in the right bin. No bits of wire, plastic, ribbon or oasis in the green bin please. Woodpecker already has to get his beak deep into the black and blue bins on occasion to sort them out. Humans eh? Happy September. Don't forget to get your Sloe Gin bottled ready for Christmas!

St Peter's Church, Spexhall

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

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



Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower 01502 478078

trish@coastal1.plus.com

We are looking forward to our Open Afternoon on Saturday 6 September, from 1pm.. see below for details..

Please see details of services here on page 3 of the magazine, and there will be more to write next month! Enjoy the rest of the summer!

All are very welcome on Saturday 6th September from 1pm for Liz's delicious home made lunches served from 1pm and home made cakes too. Liam's 'special' bar attraction, plenty and a wide selection of liquid refreshment! There will be a Raffle so be ready with those tickets!

At 2pm listen to Halesworth Harmony, a friendly choir based in Halesworth, conducted by Janet Koralambe. They enjoy singing both local and global music by contemporary songwriters. They are currently preparing for Sing for Water in London, a mass choir event to raise money for WaterAid.

Enjoy this Open Afternoon, good walks to Wenhaston and or Bramfield from here. Plenty of car parking space. Admission free. For more information email trish@coastal1.plus.com or phone on 07776077860.

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

Wenhaston Village Show was a big success as usual with lots of entries and all of good quality. The church organised the refreshments at this event and were very busy. We were so grateful to the kind people who provided the delicious cakes and for help on the day. We raised £210 for church funds and were very pleased and grateful.

Our next fund raiser is the Two St Peter's Quiz (Wenhaston and Thorington) on Friday 17th October in the Village Hall. More about this next month and entry forms will be in the Post Office by then. Meanwhile enjoy what is left of the summer!

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Rise and Stride

This takes place on Saturday 13th September. Wenhaston Church will be prepared to welcome riders and striders to the church. We should be grateful for any one who would like to take part on our, or the chapel's behalf. Sponsor forms are in the church so do take one and have a nice

stroll while raising funds for the church and the SHCT.

Wenhaston Flower Club

Our July meeting was our annual garden party and we were extremely grateful to Penny for hosting it this year in her beautiful garden. It was a glorious evening and the food was plentiful and delicious and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed happy atmosphere.



We don't meet in August but we will be back on the first Tuesday in September, (the 2nd) as usual in Wenhaston Village Hall, 7.30 pm. We are delighted to welcome back florist Emily Robbins who will be doing a demonstration. The price remains the same £5 payable on the night which includes refreshments.

Our meeting in October will be our Charity Night in aid of The Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research if you would like to donate a raffle prize for this event please can you bring it along to the September meeting so they can be incorporated into hampers to create bigger prizes. Thank you.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.

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, 2nd September. The second walk, led by Alastair and Lesley, will take place on Tuesday, 16th September, leaving The Red Lion, 90 Thoroughfare, Woodbridge IP12 1AL at 10am. Parking is available at the pub and lunch will be ordered on the day. 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

It is mid August, summer holiday season as I write and everything seems busy, busy, busy although that could just be me. More visitors around in the church, parties in the Village Hall, different people walking different dogs through the village, children on holiday playing outside.

Tractors and farm vehicles are whizzing up and down, "Running with the Grain!" as I once saw written on a farm vehicle. Harvesting is happening all around Wissett. Holidays and Harvesting! A busy time.

In the lovely little community choir that I belong to we sometimes sing this song, "What are you rushing towards? What are you rushing for? Slow down, slow down and savour. Slow down, slow down and savour."

By September hopefully we can slow down and some of us will be sitting in the church ready to welcome those on the Suffolk Historic Church's trust Bike Ride. Of course bike riders may be rushing to get to visit as many churches as possible.

This is on Saturday September 13th which is also Wissett's Gift Day for the church.

All donations (of money) great and small gratefully accepted and much needed for church repairs and upkeep.

The following Saturday, September 20th is our Harvest Festival. I hope I am correct in thinking that the service is at

7pm followed by our usual splendid Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Do come and join us and I hope we will be singing.. "Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home". May all be safely gathered in from the fields and we can gather together to sing praises.

**St Andrew's Church,
Wissett**

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

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



More on recent family church events from Pauline Milsted:

Big Summer Bird Watch at St Peter's Church in Holton:

20 of us gathered across the event at St Peter's Church in Holton on 2nd August to record and monitor the birds we saw in the churchyard. We were lucky enough to see some blue tits in the buddleia, a robin and a lot of pigeons. We also had a great time making birdfeeders and joining in some bird crafts. Thank you so much to everyone who helped and attended the event.



Suffolk Wildlife Trusts – Wildflower Surveys:

Recently we have had the pleasure of having some wildflower surveys completed at a few of our churchyards, including, Halesworth, Holton, Linstead and Wenhaston. This helps us to care for our churchyard and also the valuable work of those churches who are working towards their Eco Church Awards. As we focus on caring for God's creation and see our churchyards as a wildlife sanctuary. A huge thank you to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who has helped us with this project.

Fluttering Butterflies at Chediston:

A wonderful time was had at our Chediston event Fluttering Butterflies. We saw 24 people come and look and see what butterflies can be found in the churchyard. We did some crafts, ate ice cream and also found a lot of grasshoppers. It was lovely that everyone got so involved in seeing what butterflies and bugs we could find, and we recorded what was seen to submit to the butterfly count. This was our first family event hosted at Chediston, with me as the Children, Family and Youth Worker and it was fabulous to see so many local families eager to be involved.



FUNDRAISING Music Concert

Featuring International Musician

TOM HORTON



**Music from Big Band
to Broadway & more!**

...

**In aid of Linstead Church
Regeneration Project**

...

Refreshments & Raffle

...

**Music at the Kawai
Keyboard Orchestra**

Sat 27th September 2025 at 7:00pm

**St Margaret's Church • Linstead
Halesworth • Suffolk • IP19 0AE**

Tickets: £10 all seats

*Tickets on the door or in advance
Malcolm or Janet Heath*

T: 01986 785289 / 07860 217645

Promoted by St Margaret's Church, Linstead, Suffolk

Baptisms at Southwold

We are were really lucky to baptise Ryan and Crystal in the sea at Southwold on the 3rd August 2025. We hope that you will join with us in prayer for them both in their exciting adventure of faith and walk with God.

"And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" 1 Peter 3 verse 21.

For more information about baptisms and a new course being offered locally, please see page 14.

Pauline Milsted



Stella @ KHG

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



**Plants, Café
and Workshops**

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6 Thoroughfare
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home at affordable prices*

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IP19 8AR**

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01986 875941
or email: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com



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Halesworth Climate Energy Action

Weekend 26 – 28 September, 2025

What if we never had to worry about energy price rises again? What if Halesworth generated its own electricity, reducing energy costs for homes and businesses? What if all our homes were insulated so well that our energy costs were under £100 a year?

These are the questions behind a weekend of positive, practical workshops and discussion, on the last weekend in September. The event is organised by HASH (Halesworth Area Sustainability Hub) and is hosted by St Mary's Church, Halesworth.

Whether you are interested in taking steps to reduce bills, and use cleaner forms of energy as a family, a business or at community level, this is a chance to gather information and inspiration from experts and local people who have already begun doing just that.

Why not come along and learn more?

We will also be hearing a report from sustainable energy experts, Opergy, who have been commissioned to produce a baseline study of our town's current energy use and carbon footprint. From this baseline – where we are now – we will be developing a Net Zero Pathway to help Halesworth and area reach the sustainable energy targets adopted by the Town Council – where we want to get to.

Our partners, Blyth Valley Churches, are organising a linked week of activities with local schools to engage children with the practical energy solutions to big problems that affect their futures.

Friday evening 26 September - What if? when we'll be imagining our energy futures

Adrian Ramsay MP will talk about the political dimension.

Professor Peter Hobson will describe 'Energy Landscapes' and Climate Change: adapting to extreme weather events ecosystems and natural energy

John Collins will tell the remarkable story of Charsfield Community Energy

Saturday 27 September

Pathway to Net Zero: OPERGY will present their report commissioned by the Town Council on current energy usage; they will explain the baseline and potential way forward for residents, businesses, transport, and land use.

Then there will be a **chance to join workshops** on a list of topics including:

How I changed my house: Local residents will describe how they changed their homes with and without grants, to insulate and adapt. Challenge the Landlord: How as a tenant you can safely challenge your landlord; and how landlords can benefit from retrofitting, particularly in the light of proposed government strategy.

East Suffolk Energy Strategy: councillors will explain how this informs planning decisions.

Community Energy: John Taylor (Community Energy UK) and James Rolls (Diocesan Net

Zero Carbon Officer) and the Deben Climate Centre will share the joys of community energy ventures.

My carbon footprint: How to calculate your carbon footprint, with pleasure and not pain.

Halesworth Town Council: What is the responsibility of the town council in supporting the people and businesses of Halesworth to Net Zero?

Further details, including on the themed service to be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 28th September, can be found at:

<https://halesworthash.com/halesworth-climate-action-energy-weekend-2>

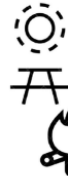


KIDS' PAGE



Draw a picture of your best summer memory

SUMMER!



CAMPING
FRISBEE
OUTDOORS
PLAY
SHORTS
SUN
SWIMSUIT

DIVING
GRASS
PARK
POPSICLE
SPRINKLER
SUNSCREEN
TAN

FLOWERS
HOT
PICNIC
SANDALS
SUMMER
SWIMMING
WATERMELON

FSOM Lunchtime Recital Review

This month, the Friends of St Mary's were delighted to welcome Jill Crossland to their lunchtime recital series.

It has long been said that art is a mirror for the human soul, in which we each find aspects of ourselves reflected with a clarity that cannot be found in ordinary life. Amongst the artforms, music is yet more special because it cannot be packed into a box and shipped to a museum, but relies upon the insight of the musician to interpret the music for today and to perform it in a way that breathes new life into the text.

Jill took us on a journey through over one century of composers and musicians struggling to articulate aspects of the human experience. Through her interpretation of Scarlatti she transported us to the green vistas of the Iberian countryside. In her performance of Rameau's *Les Sauvages* she conveyed the spectacle of the French nobility looking on at the dances of a group of Native American visitors, their obvious martial prowess clearly leaving the onlookers both enchanted and faintly terrified. Jill's final piece – Schubert's *Drei Klavierstücke* (D.946) – was difficult to hear as anything other than an extended meditation on the nature of mortality. In Jill's interpretation, Schubert articulates moments of consolation, experiences which resonate within the soul, and finally an enduring note of melancholy. The Friends of St Mary's and all those who gathered to hear Jill's performance joined together to offer their warmest thanks to Jill, who's interpretative skill and technical artistry breathed life into the music.

Rev'd Edmund Smith



FOSM and Heritage Open Day 2025



Along with other local groups, the Friends of St Mary's Church Halesworth (FOSM) will be celebrating Halesworth Heritage Open Day on Saturday, September 13th. This will run from 10 am to 4 pm in the church. The national theme this year is "Architecture: Buildings, Bridges and Beehives": an interesting combination!

Our art and photography displays, from Bungay High School and Halesworth Camera Club, will take this as the theme for their work, as will a display of local images and another on Beekeeping at Halesworth Area School in the 1950s. Keith Noakes from Spexhall, an experienced beekeeper, will give a talk at 2 pm, entitled "The A Bee C of Beekeeping" and illustrated with the aid of a replica beehive.

This will be followed at 3 pm by an illustrated talk on "Historic Buildings of Halesworth" including the church, by the church's architect Alan Greening. We shall also host the ever popular Repair Café session from 10 am until noon, dealing with electrical items, sewing machines and blade sharpening; and the tower bell ringers will be giving their usual ringing and teaching sessions and trips up the tower throughout the day. Refreshments will be available. Then on Sunday 14th Dee Scotcher and Keith Noakes (wearing another hat!) will lead church tours from 11.15 am. The number of tours offered will depend on demand. Please come along and join us for any or all of these.

Schedule

Saturday Sept 13th

10.00 – 4.00: Displays and bell ringing

10.00 – 12.00: Repair Café

2. 00 pm: The A Bee C of Beekeeping

3.00 pm: Historic Buildings of Halesworth

Sunday Sept 14th

11.15 am Guided Church Tours

CB-S

Halesworth WI Report

Members sang along to the four female "366 Station" singers at our last meeting. Their name derives from the American air group stationed at Metfield Airfield in the last war. They led us through a medley of well known 1940s' songs. Such as - In the Mood, I Got Rhythm, and we swayed and clapped to a selection which included Boogie Woogie, and Alexander's Ragtime band. We then planned our next event, in August, an indoor garden party at Wissett Village Hall 2pm. Hopefully with some sitting outside if the summer sun shines for us.

Barbara Prime

WHAT'S ON



WALPOLE
OLD CHAPEL

Walpole Old Chapel



WALPOLE
OLD CHAPEL

Walpole Old Chapel is a unique building, created c1690 by local people out of an existing farmhouse. The chapel will be open for Heritage Open Days on 13th and 20th September. Visit us between 10.00am and 4.00pm for an informative display and home-made refreshments

Contact: info@walpoleoldchapel.org
Halesworth Road, Walpole, Halesworth IP19 9AZ
www.walpoleoldchapel.org

We invite you to a

BBQ

(no charge – donations welcome)



When? Sat 6 September from 12 noon
Where? Halesworth United Reformed Church, Quay Street IP14 8EP
Why? For the fun of it!
To get to know each other
Maybe start new friendships...

More info: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com
familyhurc@gmail.com



Elizabeth Hurc



AWAKE

We invite you to a

"Grill a Christian

A Chance to explore issues of faith & doubt, the meaning of life, spiritual experiences...

A panel of Christians will answer questions from their knowledge & personal experience.

We have found a relationship with God through Jesus Christ to be a profound life changing experience, we hope to help you find the same!

When: Thursday 11 September @ 7pm

Where? Halesworth United Reformed Church
(Quay Street IP14 8EP)

More info: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com
familyhurc@gmail.com



Elizabeth Hurc



AWAKE

Youth Space
6:30 TO 8:30 PM
MONDAYS
WEEKLY
Your Space

An Evening with JB Gill

(JLS, Strictly Come Dancing, regular TV presenter)

JB talks about his life, career and faith

Saturday 6th September

7.30pm

Tickets £3

(cash on the door please)

Venue:

Halesworth URC, Quay Street

Halesworth IP19 8EP

(Subject to professional commitments)



For more info:

pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

familyhurc@gmail.com



Elizabeth Hurc



A chance to meet former Gladiator star "Ace", Warren Furman (who played Ace in the original Gladiators) is coming here

- Friday 12th September
- Afternoon tea & cakes @ 3.30pm
- Evening event @ 7pm
- Venue: Halesworth URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP



Here his remarkable experience of fame & fortune that did not satisfy - and what eventually did!
(No charge, but donations welcome)

For more info:

pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

familyhurc@gmail.com



Elizabeth Hurc





An event not to be missed..

**Jon Sermon &
the team who are just back
Present:**

Uganda Experience

**Halesworth URC
Sat 20 September
@7.30 pm**



We promise you:

A glimpse of the excitement of
the vibrant churches in Uganda

A 'taste' of culture shock

Pictures, stories and song from situations of great poverty
and whole-hearted reliance on God

Opportunities for prayer and involvement

Jon is a minister in the United Reformed Church and Chair
of Trustees of Romans 1.11 Trust, fostering mutual
encouragement between the UK and Africa. He has travelled
extensively in Uganda.

This time, 4 others from our area went with him

**Venue: Halesworth URC, Quay St, Halesworth,
Suffolk IP19 8ER**

Contact: Jon Sermon

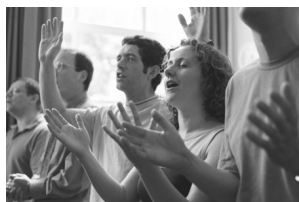
01986 873761

pastorjonsermon@gmail.com



Healing?

Is it part of our real spiritual experience?



**Explore this with us Monday 9 September 2025: 3pm
@ Halesworth URC (Quay Street, IP19 8EP)**

In a gentle, prayerful environment, in the context of worship
centered on Jesus Christ, we pray for peoples' needs with
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More info from Rev'd Jon Sermon

(01986) 873761

email: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com



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*19th September 10-11 am
17th October 10-11 am*



St Mary's Church Halesworth

6th-14th September 2025

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Sat 6: 12pm BBQ (no charge, donations welcome)

7.30pm "An Evening with JB Gill" (JLS, Strictly, TV
Presenter). (£3 cash per door)

**Sun 7: 11am Worship for Everyone
1pm Fun in Halesworth Park** (bring a
Picnic)

Mon 8: 3pm Healing Service

Tue 9: 9am Parents & Toddlers

3.30pm Messy Church (Book using contacts belows)

Wed 10: School assemblies

Thu 11: 7pm "Grill a Christian" (no questions off limits)

Fri 12: 9.45am Prayer meeting

10.30am Coffee morning

**3.30pm Tea and Cakes with former
Gladiator "Ace"** (Warren Furman)

7pm Gladiator "Ace" tells his story
(no charge, donations welcome)

Sat 13: All day Heritage Day and 'Ride & Stride'

10am "Crafty Cuppa" – crafts, drinks and cakes
for everyone

7pm "Where Can I Find Peace?" with Victor Jack

Sun 14: 11am Worship Celebrations

In the weeks after we will run the **Alpha Course** –
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More info: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

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HOW TO TAKE PART

1. You can use the sponsorship form

You can download it by scanning this QR code.



2. Raise sponsorship

Ask friends and family to sponsor your walk or ride. Be sure to note which church or chapel you're supporting.

3. Take part on the day

- At manned churches, someone will sign your form and you'll often be welcomed with refreshments.
- At unattended churches, simply record your visit yourself.

4. Send in your sponsorship money

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Save the date!

Blyth Valley Churches Pastoral Ministry Team

*"Caring for each other
as we grow old"*

2.30pm Monday 20th October

Venue tbc

A workshop for anyone who wants to reflect on the experiences of old age, both positive and negative.

The afternoon will include opportunities for individual reflection and group conversations to enable participants to share experiences.

Refreshments provided.

For more details, contact Revd Canon Alison Alder revalialder@gmail.com

