

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

October 2024

Volume 45

Issue 10

£1

(where sold)

ALL SAINTS BLYFORD VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY



Finding curiosities in the shed.

On the morning of Saturday 10th August, a volunteer work party met at All Saints Church Blyford to tidy up the churchyard. Huge thanks go to everyone who helped, we could certainly see the result of the excellent work by the end of the morning. If you would like to volunteer at All Saints, Blyford, please text 07881 865709 for more information.







Clearing the churchyard and working on the French drain.

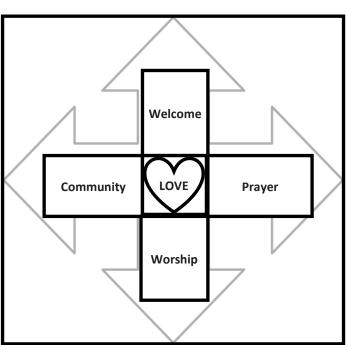
Blyth Valley Times is published monthly by Blyth Valley Churches.

To subscribe, with a copy delivered locally through your door - minimum donation £12 a year; or to request a postal subscription (£30 a year),

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October 2024 Lectionary

See below, or when Harvest Festivals occur:

Deuteronomy 8: 7 – 18

Luke 12: 16 - 30

Sunday 6th – Nineteenth After Trinity Traditional Communion (KJV)

Ephesians 4: 17 – end Matthew 9: 1 – 8

Holy Communion (NRSV)

Hebrews 1: 1-4 and 2: 5-12

Mark 10: 2 – 16

Sunday 13th – Twentieth After Trinity Traditional Communion (KJV)

Ephesians 5: 15 - 21Matthew 22: 1 - 14

Holy Communion (NRSV)

Hebrews 4: 12 - end Mark 10: 17 – 31

Sunday 20th

Traditional Communion Twenty First After (KJV)

Ephesians 6: 10 - 20 John 4: 46 – end

Holy Communion – Twenty First After (NRSV)

Hebrews 5: 1 – 10 Mark 10: 35 – 45

Sunday 27th

Traditional Communion Twenty Second After (KJV)

Philippians 1: 3-11Matthew 18: 21-end

Holy Communion - Bible Sunday (NRSV)

2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5 John 5: 36 – end



October 2024	October 2024 Blyth Valley Times Page					
Worship in the Blyth Valley in October 2024						
CW – Year B Continuous Green	6th CW & BCP 19th After Trinity	13th CW & BCP 20th After	20th CW & BCP 21st After	27th BCP 22nd After CE Bible Sunday		
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Harvest Communion Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Service Jason	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Worship Jason	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Alison A		
			6pm Evensong Dominic	6pm Evensong Dominic		
St Peter Group						
Holton St Peter		6pm Sung Evensong Dominic	11am Harvest Festival Veronica M	10am Holy Communion Gini		
Wenhaston St Peter		10.30am Harvest Festival Alison A	10am Holy Communion Linda	10am Creation Service Vic		
Bramfield St Andrew		10am Holy Communion Gini		10am Harvest Festival David		
Blyford All Saints			10am Harvest Festival Gini			
Thorington St Peter				10am Holy Communion Dominic		
St Andrew Grp						
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer Jim	10am Holy Communion David			
Chediston St Mary		11am Harvest Festival Dominic		10am Morning Prayer Veronica D		
Spexhall St Peter				10am Holy Communion Linda		
Linstead St Margaret	6.30pm Harvest Festival Dominic					
St Michael Grp						
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Dominic			
Heveningham St Margaret		4pm Harvest Festival Vic				
Huntingfield St Mary			11am Harvest Festival Dominic			
Walpole St Mary				10am Harvest Festival Alison C		

Additional Services this month:

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston
Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

OCTOBER 2024

6th The Revd Martin Keenan HC

13th Harvest Festival, United Service

at St Peter's Wenhaston

20th Mrs Sue Groome

27th Mrs Lizzie Zukiewicz

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 OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday 1st 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 4th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and

Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 6th 11am Gathered Worship with Communion

Minister Jon Sermon

Tuesday 8th 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at

Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 10th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and

Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 13th 11am Gathered Worship TBA

3pm Bramfield Chapel - Harvest Service

Minister Jon Sermon

Tuesday 15th 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at

Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 18th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and

Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 20th 11am Gathered Worship

Michael H-Cooper

Tuesday 22nd 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at

Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Friday 25th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and

Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

Sunday 27th 11am Gathered Worship

United

Church

Reformed

Tuesday 29th 10am to 12 noon Coffee Morning at

Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship

Jon Sermon: 01986 873761 pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

Judy Morton: 01502 724572

judy.morton@themortonpartnership.co.uk

Elizabeth Aslett 07710 916737 (for families and children)

familyhurc@gmail.com

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

Café Church Tuesdays!

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



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

The Revd Alison Alder at:

revalialder@gmail.com

or

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

From the Rector...

During selection and training, potential vicars are often asked, and indeed ask themselves: what is a priest? I once embarrassed myself by answering a Bishop that they were community leaders involved in sacrifice. After they had swallowed hard, they kindly remarked that my response had been a concise comprehensive definition worthy of a dictionary. However, in the Church of England, there is a silent 'Parish' in front of the word priest. What is a parish priest? Or as Jesus asked his followers who do you say that I am?

Sometimes sadly, the question may prove really quite serious, especially for stipendiary clergy. On a good day remarks such as: Oh its a busy day for you today? or not working today then? on a Sunday or around December-time might be taken as good will. On a bad day it reveals how little the work of a priest is understood. Our internal voices can be quick to add, how little valued. It only then takes someone requiring reassurance after a fundraiser that the money will not be used to support the vicar — just the building, to send one into a downward spiral — why bother? Why me?

On the other hand, at a frivolous level the question may prove quite humorous, conjuring up images of Father Filby, butterfly net in hand on route to afternoon tea with Mrs Beamish. Creaking along on a black sit-up-and-beg ladies iron frame three-speed. Their soutane flirting with the wheels and cappello romano set ready for take off. Sorry to shatter the illusion; that may have been how it started. That is not how it is now!

I was once given, more or less, 'So what do you do then?' as my title for a talk to a village Monday Lunch Club in a previous incarnation. Perhaps the most important thing I do is simply be me and be me here amongst you. Maybe the next most important thing is to listen and talk. By creating and nurturing relationships, assumptions, disagreements and bona fide problems can be corrected, reconciled and addressed in a timely manner. Nevertheless, I also do Morning and Evening Prayer (or other) every work day. I usually take the market day 10am at St Mary Halesworth and a 10am on a Sunday somewhere. I Chair all 14 of our independent charities that fundraise, maintain and promote our buildings and our ministry. They usually each meet every couple of months. I have a regular pattern of meetings one to one, small group and larger group with ministers; weekly with our administration, monthly with Churchwardens, quarterly with Secretaries and Treasurers. I attend Chapter and Deanery and Diocesan Synods. I am a Foundation Governor for two of our four schools and police chaplain at Halesworth Station. There are usually one or two funerals in preparation and in Spring and Summer, a wedding or two and a Baptism. Sometimes, I get a request, or get a hunch, that I need to attend a particular event or bedside. I try and keep on top of e-mails which, are many and varied, and can amount to 20 – 40 a day. My day starts at 8am and finishes at 9pm on the two or three days a week where I have an evening meeting. I have a coffee break, walk the dog after lunch, and take an extended tea break most afternoons. I love it all and find it affirming and generative – but, many experience burn-out for all sorts of reasons. My short tongue in cheek answer, however, is always that I try and do as little as possible! Pastoral work is attended to by our locally-based self-supporting local auxiliary pathway priests. Extension and engagement work by our equally excellent stipendiary Team Vicar.

The challenge for the church, nationally. is that with the exception of weddings and funerals there is no specific charge that feeds into the pot covering our expenses or stipend which have gone up 7% this year for the first time in a while. This leaves a gap with the 6% increase this year in what is required to support just two paid priests for our fourteen churches plus admin support and expenses (£157,760). Between us our parishes are only managing about 75% of this. It was 100% before Covid. Whilst stipendiary clergy get pension and housing, even with spouses' income, property, benefits, generous parents and Clergy Support Trust grants, household income is often a negative contributor to wellbeing. As is the state of the parsonages we are required to live in. My hope is that our new Bishops other Dioceses, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Synod will be able to move the Church Commissioners to significantly financially up their direct support for the centuries old Cure of Souls and Parish Church based mission of God.

One thing I would say in conclusion is: however, much or little clergy with responsibility choose to do, and however much or little clergy with responsibility find themselves being paid; little or none of this could be achieved without the able assistance of colleagues who may do as much again for nothing as self-supporting ministers, honorary officers and volunteers on our church councils. If you would like to financially contribute to our clergy costs or other liabilities, do consider signing up with parishgiving.org.uk or scan the QR codes for your parish towards the end of this magazine. We are also in need of Treasurers, Churchwardens and Secretaries in a number of our Parochial Church Councils (contact me in the first instance). Every little helps! Thank you!

Dominic



HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Some of you may have been at our recent Uganda Experience event. Others may already know that I travel to Uganda on mission most years. This year I was accompanied by Stu Precious, one of the North Lowestoft URC elders.

In two and a half weeks, we: drove more than 1,800 kilometres, mostly on rough roads; visited 14 churches, seven church run schools, an orphanage and three pastor training bases; officiated at two graduations of groups of student pastors; preached, gave Bible teaching, and contributed to church leaders' seminars; engaged in vibrant worship; gave and received encouragement.

Over 19 years now, I have travelled in Uganda with the Charity Romans 1.11 Trust on 12 occasions. For Stu, it was his

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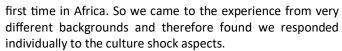
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Here, we were with the new Graduates at Wanyange, Jinja, in the East.



Romans 1.11 Trust has an ethos of mutual encouragement (that bit actually comes from Romans Ch 1 v12). From the peoples' feedback it is clear that we are able to bring some encouragement to them. But I suspect that encouragement we receive is even greater: We see a people who have almost nothing, materially speaking, living out a reliance of God and sincere joy in knowing Jesus Christ.

The Pastor training is an ongoing huge need. Because the church is growing, there will always be a need to train those newly taking on leadership roles. But also, in such a hand-tomouth situation, many who have been established pastors for some time have never had the opportunity for adequate Biblical training. There are Theological colleges in Kampala, but such at a cost that very few could even contemplate going. The Romans 1.11 course, which is part time over about 13 months, is much more than most could ever hope for. It results in a Certificate in Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry.

And this programme helps address the very real threat, from the Ugandan Government, that churches whose Pastor cannot demonstrate adequate training could face forced closure.

Most of the Charity's annual Budget (which is about the same as the cost of 1 year for 1 student at a URC training college) is committed to child sponsorship schemes or other designated projects. It is difficult to raise enough for the training. We really need a 'Boost' of about £12,000/year i.e., £1,000/month. Shared over 100 people/churches, that would be £10/month each. Hence, the 'Boost 100' initiative seeks 100 3 year commitments at that level.

Several from Halesworth are already part of this. Thank you so much. Others can still join and/or encourage family and friends. What to us is a relatively small sum can achieve such a lot in Uganda! And Romans 1.11 Trust are always willing to have people join one of our visits. Get in touch if you want to explore that.

Blessings

Ton



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

also Chair of Trustees: Romans 1.11 Trust



What has your Team Vicar been up to?

After a lovely summer, I am quite enjoying the cooler autumnal days and looking ahead to all the wonderful things we have planned between now and Christmas.

After our lively family picnics over the school holidays, we have been getting more ambitious with our plans for ministry to families, children and young people.

We have managed to secure some funding from the Diocese to support our Church Mice Tots' group, which restarted at the beginning of September and now runs every Thursday, in St Mary's Church in Halesworth from 11.30am – 1pm. We could do with a couple of volunteers to make hot drinks for parents and generally be around to lend a hand. Do get in touch if you are interested.

We have also started our open space for young people on Monday evenings from 6.30pm – 8.30pm, thanks to a committed group of volunteers. We are hoping that Halesworth Town Council will support us with our set up costs.

We will be continuing with our family services on the second Sunday of every month and adding in afternoon praise parties hopefully also once a month. These will be launched with a Light Party on Sunday 27th October from 4pm - 5.30pm. There will be food, crafts, pumpkin carving and some thoughts on the meaning of light.

There will also be another toy and clothes exchange (with lunch) on Thursday 31st October during half term and then there is the Scarecrow festival which St Mary's is also involved with.

Although a lot of this is centred in Halesworth, it is open to all and we will hopefully be able to support activities across different parts of our group of churches in the future.

This has all taken a lot of work and has encouraged us to apply for a substantial three-year grant from the Diocese Growing in God fund so we can employ someone dedicated to taking this work forward. This is very close to my heart especially now that I have had to take the decision to retire. It was a difficult decision to make because I love my ministry here, but I need to step aside to let someone take over.

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It does not seem to matter how well I try to manage my time and energy, too much gets left out and I have become frustratingly unreliable. The good thing is that once a priest, always a priest, so I will be able to carry on taking services where I will be living, and I am already getting glimpses of what God might have planned for me in the future. These things take time, so I won't be off for a while yet.

By the time *BVTimes* is circulated, the Climate Conference will have been held and I hope it will have made some progress as it did last year. Our Rector Dominic Doble chose the theme of land and food this year as there are so many complicated issues around land use for food production, energy projects and conservation.

Other exciting events include a screening of the *Hunchback of Notre Dame* accompanied by Tim Horton on the organ, which should be great fun on Friday 15th November and of course Lady Maisery who are returning to us on December 6th with two other musicians to perform their gorgeous Christmas show — *Awake Arise!* About the turning of the seasons. Tickets for both are available on Eventbrite WITH NO BOOKING FEE!

Until next month...

With love and blessings

Revd Gini

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN SEPTEMBER

BAPTISM

Frederick Peter Riou Prior at Wissett

WEDDINGS

Lucy Ann Woolnough & Mellish Patrick Kett at Spexhall

Denise Cheryl Webb & John Truscott at Bramfield

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

Audrey Eileen Shipp at Heveningham

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From the Ringing Chamber

Well, the Heritage Open Day was good fun. Lots of people climbed the tower to see the bells, and had a go at a few "backstrokes" to get a feel for what ringing was like. And of course there was the Vestey mini-ring which could usually be mastered in about 10 minutes, and was enjoyed by a steady stream of people.

If you were one of our punters, and fancy doing it again, do get in touch: halesworthbells@gmail.com

You have been very quiet so far! We are always looking for new recruits, as regular readers of this column will be aware, and the sooner you start the further you can get.

In September, our Sunday service ringing was at Heveningham, Wissett and Wenhaston. Some of us rang a very good quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at Chediston, simple method-wise but well struck and very satisfying with almost no mistakes throughout.

Practices at Blythburgh have been variable, but we have been making good progress with Stedman Doubles, a fiendishly complicated principle.

PJG

Heath's Room

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FOSM's Heritage Open Day



If you came into St. Mary's on the morning of Saturday, September 7th, you might have been surprised by the assorted loud noises: there was the whine of a knife sharpener, the sonority of the tower bells and the jingling of the mini-ring, not to mention the buzz of conversation round the Repair Café tables, the photographic and botanical displays and in the coffee corner. It was joyous and purposeful noise!

The afternoon was rather quieter, although most of the above continued and were joined by the fascinating conversations between the Clarke and Simpson valuer, Geoffrey Barfoot, and those who brought treasures for him to evaluate. There was a steady stream of "customers" for most of his two-hour stint.

We are grateful to him and to many others: Thomas Swainson, Martin Poulson, Faye Gramlick and Jenny Janes for their impressive photographic displays; Dee Scotcher and Lesley Scott who worked so hard on the interesting Hooker display and its botanical specimens; the tower bell ringers under Philip Gorrod for their performances and instruction on the tower bells and mini-ring and trips up the tower; the Suffolk Guild of Ringers for the loan and transportation of the mini-ring; Kim and Nick Hoare, Helen Howes, Jim Watts and Mike Bostock-Smith for their various repairs; all those who baked cakes and served them; and Jason Busby who, as ever, was willingly lending a hand wherever it was needed. All these played their part in a happy and successful day.

C B-S





Exciting news from Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund

The Fund runs several activities each week and we are delighted to add another activity to our list. There is now a **Creative Arts Class** being run every Thursday at The Cut from 1pm – 3pm. These are free classes that aim to boost confidence and well-being through painting, collage, sculpture and more, for people living with dementia and their carers.

If you would like more information about this new course (or any other of our activities) please call 07990 199632 or email info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

iChameleon Shop

This was a great success, and we took, thanks to your great generosity, over £1,700. We are so grateful to all who

donated items, came in and bought from us, volunteered to help us in anyway, and supported our raffle for the big hamper. Our congratulations to Boe Strachan for drawing the winning raffle number.

A huge "thank you" to each and everyone.

An important Diary date

On December 7th there will be a Musical Extravaganza at Holton & Blyford Village Hall. With some great musical and dancing acts this promises to be a brilliant evening, and all proceeds will be donated to HDCF. There will be a bar and raffle, and lots of fun. More details will be out very soon, but please note this date and come and support us.

John Wood



Open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am – 1pm;

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HALESWORTH

COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY

Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays

10am - 11.30am



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





Excerpts from Transformation Now September 2024. No 56. www.musuffolk.org.uk Charity No 249726

The new Worldwide President is Kathleen Snow. She will take over from Sheran Harper in January 2025. She comes to this role having served as the Zonal Trustee for the Americas for six years.

Diocesan Minute Secretary and Diocesan Correspondence Secretary. The Diocesan Secretary Role has now been split and we are looking for one person to be the Minute Secretary and another to be the Correspondence Secretary. Neither of these people needs to be a Mothers' Union member. All our meetings are now hybrid meetings so the Minute Secretary can even join via Zoom if travelling is an issue. With only four trustee meetings a year and two council meetings this role only requires someone to give six mornings a year. For more information, please contact Jeanette Appleton: Jeanette.Appleton@mothersunion.org

Triennial theme 2025-2027

We are pleased to share that the triennial theme for 2025-2027, following on from "Transformation Now!", approved by the Worldwide Board in July, is:

JOIN US and JOIN IN! MU is changing lives.

This triennial theme builds on Transformation Now! which looks at how MU can continue to be relevant and reflect the needs of churches and communities in the 21st Century. The clear message is that MU is evolving and MU needs to grow if we are going to continue as a movement of members delivering change in communities across the globe. This theme asks us to proactively share about MU and encourage anyone who supports what we do, to join us and join in. It also asks existing members to take a look at what they feel able to do in their churches and communities, and to join in. You will receive further information on how to use this theme so that you can integrate this it into your programme planning for 2025

https://www.mothersunion.org/clergy-pack

Exciting News: Explore the New RISE UP Resource Hub Collections! We are pleased to introduce our new RISE UP resource hub collections! These collections are designed to provide you with all the materials you need, including resources and a presentation, to share information about MU's RISE Up initiatives and the important work of MU. These resources will help you effectively communicate our



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mission to both other branches and the wider community. To find out more go to - Non-secular/religious RISE UP resource hub collection: https://mothersunionresourcehub.com/shared/mycru5zb

Secular RISE UP resource hub collection:

https://mothersunionresourcehub.com/shared/e0ajtdry

Jewellery and Scarves. North Suffolk Area Committee are planning to have a table at the St Edmunds Fair in Hoxne on November 23rd. We are grateful for any donations of jewellery and scarves, as well as small boxes that we could use to display items. Sue Norrington 01728 660280.

Subscriptions have now been set at £28 for 2025. Many members are now paying by direct debit. If you would like to do this, please contact Clare Thomas on 01473 832808.

Mary Sumner Day in Southwold. The "I Spy the MU plague" went off well - the plaque was found, and duly Donations amounted to around £200, being divided equally between the Summer of Hope campaign and the Band. About 30 MU members came, with 15 in the Royal British Legion Band, plus another 15-20 onlookers and bystanders. The Team Rector in Southwold, the Revd Russ Gant led the worship service for us... and did a great job. We met all our objectives - celebrating the life and work of Mary Sumner, an opportunity for MU+1 (bringing a friend to an event), raising funds for the Summer of Hope Appeal, meeting up with members from all around the diocese, "making MU visible" (as opposed to meeting indoors in a church) - with feather banner blowing in the wind, a flip chart display, offering hospitality in the form of bottled water and inviting strangers to come and "join us, join in!". It was a time of sharing in fellowship, singing MU songs/hymns (accompanied by the local RBL Band), Bible reading, prayers and an appropriate talk from the Vicar.

Fressingfield Branch. On July 4th, ten of our members went to Bury St Edmunds for a guided tour of the Cathedral, after which we had tea and cake served by members of the Cathedral Branch. Our Wave of Prayer service was held in Fressingfield Parish Church on July 16th. The following Saturday our branch took a stall at the local monthly Produce Market and raised £82 selling second-hand books. On August 1st our monthly meeting was a fund-raising Afternoon Tea with Bring-and-Buy. This raised £214. All monies collected were donated, nothing was priced at either the book stall or the Afternoon Tea. In addition, someone who had attended a meeting a few months ago had taken one of our collection stickers to put on a jar and had returned the contents of the jar to us, giving another £17 to add to our eventual total for the Summer of Hope Appeal. When this money is sent to the treasurer it will all be eligible for Gift-aid. Christine Christian Yoxmere Benefice We held a Cream Tea on August 15th for our branch and the wider community. It was well supported and over £300 was raised for the Summer of Hope Appeal. It was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the sunshine in the garden. Sue Norrington



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THE HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH



On Friday 30th August, The Old Hall Café Southwold hosted the maze by torchlight for us. It was a spectacular night, the sunset was glorious and so many people came along to support us. We owe a massive thank you to Bella, Emily, and all the staff at The Old Hall Café who worked so hard on the night to make this event such a success. We are so grateful to Bella as all the ticket money is donated to us at the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research, it is so very generous. Bella and her team hid some pink pebbles round the maze and if you were lucky enough to find them you were rewarded with some sweets. We hope to raise over £1000 and I will let everyone know how well we did in the next issue.

Our members put on a few stalls and some traditional games including "Welly Wanging" which was extremely competitive and I'm afraid one welly is still missing in the maze but thankfully we didn't lose anyone in the maze, only the welly. Congratulations to the adults and children who won a prize on each of our games.

We received such lovely comments from people as they were leaving, everyone saying what a great time they had.

Thank you all very much for coming and supporting Cancer Research.

On Tuesday 1st October, Wenhaston Flower Club are holding their annual Charity Night for us in Wenhaston Village Hall from 6.30pm The Charity Night is in the form of a fête with stalls and refreshments and is open to everyone. You don't have to belong to the Flower Club or be interested in flower

arranging, so please come and spend a pleasant evening catching up with friends and neighbours over a cup of tea and, of course, delicious cake.

As well as the usual stalls, cakes, raffle, tombola, books, jigsaws, bric-à-brac, there will be Jane Bastow with her plants, and some of the Flower Club ladies are very talented and will have some lovely craft stalls. The Cancer Research Christmas cards and diaries will also be for sale. A warm welcome awaits you all.

On Saturday 19th October, we will be holding our very popular Jumble Sale in Holton & Blyford Village Hall, from 10am-12pm. We will be serving light refreshments of tea/coffee and as always at our events delicious cake. We will also have a selection of good as new clothes on the rails, household linens, books, jigsaws, bric-à-brac, shoes and accessories, children's, men's and ladies clothes.

Please can I ask you not to leave items outside the village hall for the sale, as we only book the hall for the day so are unaware of any items left there. Also, sorry, but we can not accept electrical items.

Thank you all for generously supporting the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research. For more information please contact me.

Dawn Davis (Chair)

HALESWORTH UKULELE BAND

We have changed our name!

10 years ago our ukulele group formed under the auspices of the U3A (University of the Third Age), six of us, with only one person really knowing how to strum, let alone play together. Now we are 20 members with a wealth of experience and a mix of acoustic and electric ukuleles from the small soprano to the mighty bass.

You may have heard us play, but some people still don't know about us, we are often referred to as Halesworth Strummers and the U3A Ukulele Band.

We are working on our PR with our new name up front, look out for the Halesworth Ukulele Band. We love to play together and to an audience, if you would like to know more about us, or would like to join, visit our page on the Halesworth U3A website, (under groups, ukulele) you can see our contact details and where we are performing in near future.

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Waveney and Blyth Environment Group



Next meeting: 7.30pm, Thursday 10th October 2024 St Peter's Room, Holton IP19 8NG

Theme: "Treading more lightly on the earth - how can we adapt our lifestyles?"

Everyone from churches across the Waveney and Blyth Deanery is welcome to come and share what they are already doing to promote environmental issues and to discuss new ideas.

For more details contact: Revd Alison Alder revalialder@gmail.com / 01502 478855

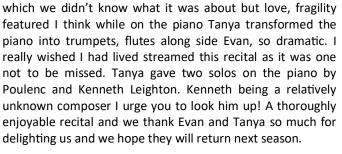
FoSM Lunchtime Recital Review

By Jason Busby

In the 10th Anniversary Year of the lunchtime recitals, we have been truly blessed with some stunning performances. Not least on Wednesday 11th September when we welcomed back to St Mary's Tenor Evan Ruth accompanied by Tanya Kirk.

Evan took us on a three phase journey from stereotypical playful French, romantic Italian and incomprehensible English art songs. Evan's passion for singing certainly shone, with glorious sunshine coming through windows creating a warm

and inspiring atmosphere. I was watching from the back, and everyone was entranced by his performance and introductions to each section. The Duparc: L'invitation au Voyage in the French section, this piece felt like we were left on a cliff hanger, so expressively sung. passion, intensity and pace of the Bellini in the Italian section, then the grand start to the Britten in the English section, a poem from 1936







In October, we look forward to welcoming back Soprano Katalin Prentice accompanied by Tanya Kirk, with a programme of delightful music consisting of famous operas and operettas. So, join us on Wednesday 9th October from 12noon for refreshments from cakes, scones, sandwiches, tea, coffee etc for a 12.30pm recital.





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



What's on at Halesworth Library

We have lots going on over the Autumn period at Halesworth Library!

This month's guest for The Friends of Halesworth Library book talk is former firefighter Russell Webb, joining us on Thursday 17th October at 2.30pm. Mr Webb will be talking about how he moved from his 30 year full-time firefighting career to becoming a published author. He found that writing about the untimely death of his wife, and the time they had spent together, helped with his grieving. His book Love Beyond Love can be borrowed from Suffolk Libraries and he will have copies for sale. Tickets are free but please let us know you're coming by emailing: friendsofhalesworthlibrary @gmail.com or calling 01986 875095.



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I AM AVAILABLE FOR HOME VISITS BY APPOINTMENT

Refreshments provided, donations welcomed.

If you have little ones at home, join us every Tuesday 10am -11.30am for our free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys.

We also hold a Time Out group for older people every Wednesday 10am to make new friends and chat over a cup of

There are two sessions of the regular Sociable Sunday events, hosted by The Friends of Halesworth Library, on October 6th and 20th 10.30am-12.30pm where you can come along and meet new people over a cup of tea!

The month is rounded off with Board Games Café, also hosted by The Friends on October 28th, 2pm-4pm, with a wide range of games to play for all ages and abilities.

You can find advice drop-ins from East Suffolk Council Customer services every Tuesday 10am-4pm and Barclays Bank on Wednesdays 9am-5pm. Citizens Advice have a dropin every other Tuesday 10am-12pm, please ask a member of staff for future dates.

Finally... 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 875095 for further information.

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, find us at: blythvalleychurchessuffolk

Display advertisements in

Blyth Valley Times

start at £54 for a 12 months' booking. (No VAT applicable)

Single issue display advertisements are also accepted.

For further information, please telephone 01986 875941

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

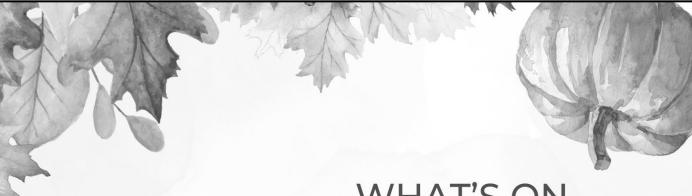






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WHAT'S ON

Children, families and young people

OCTOBER 2024

- Youth Group Every Monday from 6:30-8:30 pm St Mary's Church Halesworth.
- Church Mice Tots Every Thursday (except 31st) from 11:30am-1:00 pm at St Mary's Church Halesworth.
- Light Party 27th October from 4-5:30 pm at St Mary's Church Halesworth.
- Scarecrow crafts 28th October from 12:30 till 2:30 pm at St Mary's Church Halesworth
- Toy Exchange and Family Picnic 31st October 2024 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at St Mary's Church Halesworth.

Blyth Valley Churches

The Blyth Valley Ministry Team



The Revd **Dominic Doble Team Rector**

The Rectory, Highfield Road, Halesworth, IP19 8SJ Tel: 01986 948968 Mobile: 07743 554955 Email: dominic.doble@ phonecoop.coop (Off duty: Mondays)



The Revd **Gini Williams** Team Vicar

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Associate Priest

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The Blyth Valley Churches office in St Mary's Church is OPEN on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am - 1pm. Tel 01986 875941. On Wednesdays and Fridays, Telephone 07752 275328 (between 9am - 1pm). 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://

www.blythvalleychurches.co.uk

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



Your donation goes towards the work of the **Blyth Valley Churches**



Blyth Valley Churches Contacts

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Blyth Valley Times

published monthly by

Blyth Valley Churches

NOVEMBER edition issue is:

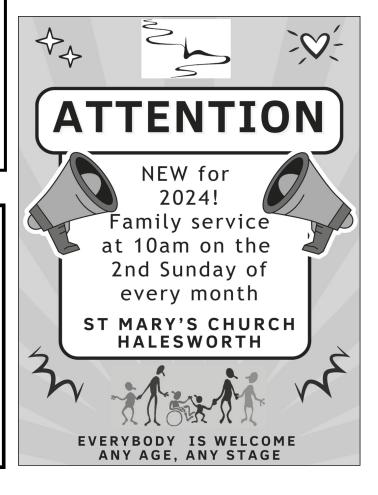
WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Publishing date: Thursday 24th October

Advertising: 01986 875941/07752 275328.

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		_
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Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy	01986 873173



News from Town & Villages

Blyford

Correspondent
Alison Cackett 01986 874442
acackett@me.com

STALL ON THE GREEN

in aid of
BLYFORD CHURCH
Bring and buy stall on the green by
Blyford church - bric-à-brac, books,
vegetables and plants



Saturday 12 October Saturday 9 November



Volunteers welcome! If you can help, please call 07886 292145

Bramfield

Correspondent Joanna Wilkinson 07986 217868

joanna.wilkinson6@gmail.com

The Bramfield Village Hall and St Andrew's Church Held a combined traditional village and church fête on the new Bramfield Village Green on Saturday 10th August. This was the second major event on the newly opened Village Green.

See photo below.

The event featured Live music by the Black Deek Band, several performances by the Rumburgh Morris Dancers, a small array of classic cars and wheeled conveyances, array of booths, including:

face painting, raffle and tombola, books, plants, bric-à-brac, children's activities, toys, books and field games, jewellery, and other crafts, with the added fun of an all-village tug-of-war event

Food came in an assortment of teas and coffee, cakes and a full barbecue, that was very well attended. The event drew a large number of people, and raised a good sum for both parties supporting the event, with a goodly number of compliments coming back about the joy of a traditional fête.

Boundless thanks go to the very hard-working organisers: Jinnie, Jane, Joanna, Kat, Chris and Mari, and the team who made this event happen. And especially to everyone's families for helping and supporting through the process, and the people of the village and as far away as London and beyond who were willing to take a weekend to give their time to make this event happen.

The event was a success, and there are hopes that we can pull a team together to make it happen again next year. If you are interested in helping out and making this possible next year, please drop an email to standrewsbramfield@gmail.com and we will be back in contact when we are planning the next time around.

St Andrew's News

For anyone wishing for a little bit of quiet in a busy week and have the time, we have a Morning Prayer service every Thursday morning at 9.30am. It is a time to read, listen and pray and just find a peaceful few moments in a beautiful place.



Bramfield Harvest Supper

In the village hall on

Friday 4th October 6.30pm for 7pm

Sausage and bean stew (and vegetarian option), baked potato, peas, roll and butter. Assorted puddings Bring your own drink

Entertainment by

Del, Jeremy and Stephen
Book in advance, £10 per adult, £5 per
child, payable on the door
Booking forms are available at
Bramfield Garage

or email: info.bvhall@gmail.com

St Andrew's Church, Bramfield

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

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

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





Chediston

Correspondent Sally Aldous 01986 873363

Sam Batey Tennis -

Tamasine Batey reports

We've had a very busy summer with Sam attending several tennis tournaments, including the 130th year of the Framlingham Lawn Tennis Tournament (the oldest national tournament the after in Wimbledon) where he was a semifinalist, and the Norfolk County Championships Festival of Tennis, where he became Norfolk County Champion in the age 11U age group. He and his partner also played doubles in an older age group (age 12U) where they were runners up.

Sam is pictured with his County Champion's Trophy

Blyth Valley Times



Date for your Diary

Chediston Harvest Festival – Sunday 13th October. This will take place at 11am followed by lunch for everyone in the Church School Room. Hopefully the refurbished Copeman Hart organ will be back by then.

SHCT Ride & Stride

This took place on Saturday 14th September and luckily the weather held. We had 10 cyclists visit St Mary's, slightly down on last year. Your correspondent had a friendly black and white dog in the morning (without a cyclist), but he was called back by his owner. I also had a young visitor from the Saints in the evening.

John Parson was Chediston's sole representative and visited several churches. He already has some sponsorship but anyone wishing to add to his total please ring John direct on 01986 875055. John has been cycling for Chediston for many, many years, possibly since the beginning of this event in the 80's. This must be a near record. We are very grateful to him. Many thanks also to all those who sat in the church to welcome the cyclists.

Chediston & Linstead WI

On Tuesday 10th September our speaker was Dr Phil Roberts who came to give a talk on Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, former Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain. Dr Roberts is the author of "Ipswich's Greatest Son", he illustrated his talk with beautifully coloured slides. Born in 1473, Thomas Wolsey's father owned a pub and they lived on the east Suffolk coast. He was well educated at Ipswich Grammar School, followed by studying theology at Oxford. In his memory there is in Ipswich the New Wolsey Theatre plus a pub bearing his name.

He quickly rose to fame becoming chaplain to the King (Henry VII and later Henry VIII). However, he was eventually arrested and accused of treason in 1530 for failing to secure the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage. He was not tried or executed as he died in Leicester on his way to face trial and was buried there in the Abbey.

Next month, our meeting is on Tuesday 8th October when we will have a speaker on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Cookley

Correspondent Jane Evers

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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

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





Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby 01986 873336 halesworthparish@gmail.com

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

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

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

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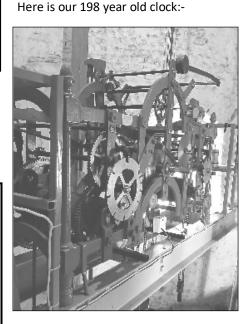




Some of us in our Christian lives and in other parts of our lives, have particular ways of doing things, I'm no different. Dominic made we laugh recently - he has put two and two together and

knows I'm in a grump when I say "never a dull day"!

I must confess this is how I feel at the moment about our 'behind the scenes' church life. We (the PCC) need some extra pairs of hands. From putting your name on the list to prepare and serve refreshments at worship, counting the cash on a monthly basis, running the 50/50 club, we need a Treasurer, a second Churchwarden to ease my burden and help with events management, cleaning, flowers, the list goes on. It will be easy to gloss over this paragraph, but please don't, if you can help with the day-to-day running of St Mary's in anyway, PLEASE get in touch. So, with my plea for help over... let's reflect and look forward with what's been going on in the life of St Mary's. A very successful Heritage Open Day took place on Saturday 7th September. THANK YOU to everyone involved from the bell ringers, historians, FoSM, caterers, the Repair Café, auctioneer, tower tour guides. It was an opportunity to see St Mary's heritage and areas of the church not regularly



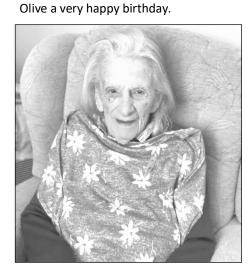
open. A steady flow of visitors all day.

Saturday 14th September was the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust annual Ride & Stride. Sadly no one rode for St Mary's this year, and the number of visitors was also significantly down only 21 people signed the sheet for the day.

THANK YOU to those who sat in church to welcome riders and visitors. 50% of donations go to the Trust and 50% to the church.

A very happy birthday to Halesworth stalwart Olive Meen who was 101 years old on Sunday 15th September. Olive's

favourite hymn is Great is thy faithfulness.. "All I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!". Wishing



Looking ahead at the time of writing it is only 98 days until Christmas Day!

But enough about the 'C' word. Our regular pattern of worship continues, Wednesday mornings 10am, Sundays 8am and 10am.

Dominic reads Morning and Evening Prayer from Tuesdays - Saturdays at 8am and 6pm, with Evensong most Sundays at 6pm.

All our services are broadcast LIVE on YouTube do visit www.youtube.com/ @halesworthparish

Please visit the 'What on' page on the outside back cover of this issue to see the full list of additional services, recitals, concerts and events coming up at St Mary's.

Lastly from me this month... details of this year's County Harvest Festival, Sunday 6th October, 11.30am, Service starts 2pm at Trinity Park, Suffolk Show Ground, Ipswich IP3 8UH.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Lightwave and the Suffolk Agricultural Association are delighted to invite you to the County Harvest Festival for 2024. This hugely popular biannual event is held at Trinity Park and includes food, bar, live music, craft and produce stalls, as well as an opportunity to meet the animals. It's a special year as Bishop Martin, President of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, will be leading the 2pm worship.

ST MARY'S 50/50 CLUB

Results of the 50/50 draw for September was as follows: 1st prize - V Spencer, 2nd prize - D Hale, 3rd prize -D Baldwin.

Blyth Valley Times

HALESWORTH WI

Halesworth WI members welcomed four visitors from neighbouring WI's when they met for their Indoor garden party in the Rifle hall in August. This gave us an opportunity to enjoy the buffet food and games with also an opportunity to mingle and chat. We searched our brains for answers to complete Pat Millers fiendish "true or false" quiz before wending our way

Heveningham

Correspondent Sara Lister stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com

I am the new Secretary at St Margaret's church and wanted to introduce myself. As part of my role I've started to photograph and collate information for the graves in the churchyard. This was last done in 1986, using drawings and lots of detail, which is proving an enormous help.

It's fascinating to see how many families are represented in the churchyard, and very sad to realise how many children are named on the stones. I'm taking pictures of each grave, and adding information which was visible in 1986, but which sadly can no longer be read in some cases.

This will all be put into a booklet, to form a record of all the information I can find. Hopefully it will make interesting reading, and may help people in the future doing research into family trees.

Dates for your diary: October 12th -Coffee Morning and Produce Sale, 10.30am. October 13th - Harvest Festival and supper, 4pm.

Jeanette Griffin, Churchwarden, writes: **Harvest Coffee Morning and Harvest** Festival, October 12th/13th

We are hoping to hold a produce market on October 12th to coincide with our monthly coffee morning. You are welcome to come along and sell locally-produced fruit vegetables, jams, chutneys for a donation to the church or, if you prefer, you can donate items on a bring and

October 13th is Harvest Festival at 4pm followed by our Harvest Supper. If you can help out with any donations of sweet or savoury foods to add to our table, please let me know.

Can you fill a vase? If you would like to do a flower display for the church, please come and choose a vase.

I would love to make the church look as colourful as possible for our Harvest weekend.

Please get in touch if you can help with any of the above. As always, thank you for your support. Tel 01986 798280 or email stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com

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-withubbeston

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





Holton

Temporary Correspondent Jackie Watts

We are very sorry to hear that John Hewlett has broken his hip while staying with their son in America. We all wish him a good recovery and look forward to them coming home soon.

Services

Service dates and timetable are on page three of this issue.

Special services at Holton

Sung Evensong: 6pm Sunday 13th October - with Team Choir.

Harvest Festival: 11am Sunday 20th October.

Cycle Ride of the year!

We had a fantastic ride on September 14th. A whole day of cycling in the Suffolk countryside is worth a write up. First. I must mention the extraordinary train ride to Woodbridge which was where we had planned to start our cycling. We managed to wheel our bikes on to the train successfully, but were told we were in the wheelchair area and would have to move if required. I secretly prayed there would be no wheelchairs. By the time we reached Woodbridge our carriage was full, not of wheelchairs, but two pushchairs, plus mum and four children. One of the pushchairs carried a large

Blyth Valley Times

black cat and a dog was also on board. There was a man with an enormous suitcase on wheels. It was all very entertaining especially when an excited group of ladies going on a "Hen Party" tried to join us! We managed to squeeze past the hubbub and off the train at Woodbridge where many more passengers seemed to be boarding. The Greater Anglia train service is obviously doing well.

The point of our journey was to visit as many churches as possible before 5pm and raise some money for our church and the Historic Churches Trust. There were quite a few families riding their bikes and signing up at the Woodbridge churches. We continued our ride towards Felixstowe following the River Deben. There was someone to welcome us at each church. We reached St Mary's Martlesham at 11.15am and had coffee and biscuits served by Monica and Margaret from their new church room in the churchyard. At the parish church in Newbourne we were shown the new stained-glass window and told how the whole of the east end wall had collapsed in the Great Storm of 1987, smashing the window into little pieces. Amazingly the head of Christ survived and is placed in part of the new window. Another interesting feature was some very old graffiti in the porch, thought to be a linear sketch of a boat around 1500 AD, maybe drawn by a sailor who had sailed up the River Deben. The sense of history in this place was tangible and one to revisit. (Good pub next door also!)

We made it to Felixstowe ferry by 3pm. I loved riding along the shore road, past the beach huts and looking out to sea. The ferry was quite small, so we practically filled it with our bikes and two other passengers. The other side of the Deben was very different terrain and easier riding as the wind was behind us. We seemed to leave the undulations on the Felixstowe side and now there were large, ploughed fields or fields full of pigs and pig-styes. Bawdsey, Alderton and Shottisham churches were short visits as time was running out, but everyone made us very welcome and signed our sponsor form. We staggered into The Sorrell Horse pub at Shottisham for a well-earned early supper, then peddled another four miles up to Melton and caught the 7.30pm train back to Halesworth. Not so eventful this time but gladly missed a drunken group of lads boarding at

Halesworth station.

We visited twelve churches in the Woodbridge and Felixstowe area and clocked up thirty miles on the bikes. We have raised £145 so far. If you would like to contribute to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and Saint Peter's Holton, we are asked to collect donations before the end of October. Last but not least, we must thank the recorders at Holton church, who welcomed 21 cyclists throughout the day. Betty, Wendy, John, Pam and Veronica.

Jackie and Jim Watts

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.





Huntingfield

Correspondent Sally Clarke sally.clarke@live.com

This time of year it is all about Harvest and so this article is all about Harvest. We are holding our ever popular Harvest Supper on Saturday 5th October at The Hub Huntingfield. 6.30pm for 7pm start.

On offer is a Home cooked 2-course supper for £15 per person. Children eat for free. Veggie option is available. Tea and coffee is included but please bring your own drinks for the table. Even if you are a stranger to Huntingfield you are assured of a warm welcome and it is a lovely way to celebrate the end of harvest with friends and family and maybe make new acquaintances. To reserve a seat contact Emma on 01986 785343.

We are asking everyone who attends the Supper to please 'Bin a Tin' The Bin will be in the Foyer of The Hub throughout the day of October 5th. All donated tins will be passed to Halesworth Community Larder.

Harvest Festival will be held in the

church on Sunday 20th October at 10am. Come along and join in the singing of 'We plough the fields and scatter' and all the other popular harvest Hymns. Refreshments will be available after the service and another chance to 'Bin a Tin'.

To enhance the visitor experience at St Mary the Virgin we are delighted to announce that we have produced a Huntingfield History Podcast. We are holding a special Launch afternoon on Saturday 2nd November commencing at 2pm. Do come along to find out more about it's production and how to use it. Help and advice will be on hand if you are thinking of something similar for your church. We are very fortunate that some of the Hand Bell ringing Team from Halesworth are joining us to give a 'ringing' presentation. afternoon will conclude with delicious freshly baked scones and tea. An afternoon too good to be missed!

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

THEY DO SAY THAT NOSTALGIA ISN'T what it used to be. It is that time of year when the churchyard becomes a hardhat area: The horse-chestnut trees are loaded with conkers, they drop to the ground open up to reveal their rich chestnut coloured contents - and that's it: no children gathering them up - no pickling them or baking them to get that extra hardness. Playing conkers is a lost art. I am told the Health and Safety purists had decided that conkers were dangerous but I think that the enthusiasm for that quintessentially seasonal back-to-school pastime had

waned long before that. I remember that I once had a sixer before it was rudely shattered.

I HAD AN INTERESTING E-MAIL FROM a man from Denmark. He had visited the churchyard and had been unable to find some particular graves. I was able to help him to a certain extent. Although we have, on prominent and permanent display in the church, a file of all the known burials, together with a map, it tends to get overlooked. In this case there remained only a decayed wooden cross. The remainder of the names he was seeking had, I believe been cremations and the scattering of ashes. I think it is worth underlining the fact that the upkeep of graves is entirely the responsibility of the family concerned. Similarly, the erection of gravestones (to an approved design) is up to the family. Largely, I suspect, because of the cost involved, a significant number of more recent interments remain unmarked. However, for the last 40 years or so, they have been marked on our churchyard plan. So, when it comes to finding graves, if in doubt - ask.

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI MET IN September and heard Dr Philip Roberts tell them about the life of Cardinal Wolsey, that local lad who did well for himself. Dr Roberts was a particularly good speaker and really held his audience. They meet next at 2.30pm. on Tuesday 8th October, at Linstead Village Hall. The speaker will be telling them about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

SO BACK TO AUTUMN AND, CONKERS apart, it is truly a lovely season, I know 'Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness' is an overused cliché, but only because it sums it up so beautifully. That being so, we should give thanks

THE LINSTEAD HARVEST FESTIVAL

ਫ਼

will be held on

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER at 6.30pm. We are again inviting gifts for the Foodbank

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING, ST MARGARET'S continues to survive by the skin of it's teeth and needs all the help it can get if it is to remain open. If you want your

church to survive, please do help us by donating. Gift Aid envelopes will be available, which, if appropriate, gives each donation an added 25%.

So please support YOUR very own church.

THE LINSTEAD GIFT DAY

SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER from 10am to 3pm.

Light refreshments Chat and Donating!

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT Christmas. Mixed emotions about sums it up. It can be a lonely time, it can be a slightly fraught time. Families visiting, or visiting families. Decisions, decisions!

And then there are presents. A friend of ours used to buy all her presents for next year, at the January sales. That always struck me as being a little mechanistic. Or, is it a reflection of the syndrome of getting to January and remembering the things that actually would have been quite useful, but which you didn't put on your present list. Paradoxically, the problem does not usually lie with the larger presents. When one has finally been able to worm out of one's nearest and dearest what they actually want (which is not

LINSTEAD COMES TO HALESWORTH

THE LINSTEAD MARKET

will be held at:

ST MARY'S CHURCH

ON

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

10am to 1pm

Christmas Gifts, Food and Decorations Raffle

Seasonal Refreshments

necessarily what they might actually need), the rest is easy, just pop into the shops or, if all else fails, ask Mr Amazon. No, the problem lies in the smaller presents, the stocking-fillers, the last minute things. And chronic indecision doesn't help. "Honestly, there is nothing I really need." Which is no real help at all. Which is just rather roundabout way of explaining why this event is so vital to your Seasonal well being.

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE LAST event of the year will be our service of carols and readings, on December 22nd at 3pm.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER COMPRISE Harvest Festival on the 6th at 6.30pm (see panel).

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

'It is the Harvest Moon! On gilded vanes and roofs of villages'

These lines from Longfellow's poem *The Harvest Moon* is exactly what Woodpecker has been seeing recently as he thinks about this article. The moon has been shining brightly on St Peter's in recent nights, bringing happy memories of a busy and special summer in the church and the village hall...

Flower Festival and Art Exhibition

Our special thanks go to Patricia and her team for all they did in cleaning and decorating the church in such lively and thoughtful ways, and for providing teas on two days in the 'pop-up' cafe on the village hall field. Imaginative displays about 'Summertime in Suffolk', from the seaside to the garden, and to themes around the hedgerow, Suffolk skies and bees, led to a festival enjoyed by many from near and far

Together with the wonderful art exhibition in the village hall and lovely weather it led to a very happy weekend.

We even had a baptism on Saturday (17th) of Bodhi Brabbin-Gutteres, with 35 adults and nearly as many children attending.

A splendid setting for a very special occasion.

We raised over £600 for church funds over the weekend, but more importantly

Blyth Valley Times

it brought people together in special ways. Thanks to all who were involved.



Bodhi, Shine as a light in the world, to the Glory of God the Father.

Wedding Ceremony

It is always a very happy occasion to have weddings in church, and it was lovely to share in the joy of Mellish and Lucy's wedding day, together with their children and families. We wish them every blessing and our prayers on their journey of married life together: 'If I was a flower growing wild and free, all I'd want is you to be my sweet honey bee' (Louis Polisar).



Harvest Festival

Woodpecker noted once more how busy the flower team had been in producing lovely displays for the Harvest Festival. With our thanks to Veronica Mowat, our minister for the Festival, and her first service with us. Thanks also to Fred for all the gifts that he provided for Harvest Festival, the grains etc.

It is always good to see friends and to celebrate the harvest in joy and hope.

October Service

All are very welcome to our **Holy Communion Service** on Sunday 27th October at 10am. It is **Bible Sunday**, so a good time to think about that rather important book. (OK, 'books' if we are being pedantic!).

Village Quiz Night

For once the village hall committee has excelled itself in forward planning! There is to be a quiz night on Friday 29th November at 7pm. Bring your own meal nosh, but coffee/tea and cake will be provided. It is £3 a head to a maximum of £12 (that's 4 people per table according to my bird brain). There will be the 'Fred Woods Mega Raffle', so please give to any committee member your raffle prize of soap-on-a-rope (unused please!), or whatever, in advance if possible. Please email our Secretary Karen Sharman: karen1sharman@icloud.com to reserve your tickets.

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

There was a good attendance at the Harmony Day on September 7th and everyone enjoyed the a capella songs with Jennie and Helen in the church. It was a delightful mix of songs and we all joined in at various stages. They run singing workshops in the area, so do contact Trish if you like to know more.

Then Kimberley Moore from Norwich played and sang outside, in the sunshine, again a great response captivating the audience with her beautiful voice and guitar playing. Thank you to all. An annual event perhaps?

Also to Mike Gower who with Jasper Garland had researched the 1833 scroll loaned form the Bence family, and transcribed by them. A lot of interest in Mike's talk, the local connections and what sort of man Col Henry Bence at Thorington Hall was in interesting times of change in the 1830s dealing with topical subjects around social change and migration. If you would like a copy of the transcript with list of 500 signatures and their villages please ask Trish.

The PCC thank all who helped make this a successful day, especially those who gave their time making and selling refreshments, the SWT for allowing us to use the cark park as well as next to the church and we especially thank Jasper and Aniko who live close by and have helped in many ways to make the event a success. Over £700 was



Harmony Day at Thorington

raised on the day, a huge thank you from the PCC.

Autumn will be a quiet time here at the Church, and then suddenly we will be planning the Carol Service for Christmas Eve.

All are welcome at the church to join our services or just to walk around enjoy, both the inside and churchyard outside.

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.





The churchyard perimeter wall has now been repaired. A benefit of being a "Closed Churchyard" is that the cost of the repair to the perimeter wall was funded by East Suffolk Council for which we are very grateful. Along with the work to the exterior and interior walls of the church earlier in the year, it is heartening to know that this historic Christian place of worship has received a much needed boost to its longevity.

Blyth Valley Times

Our beehive, in place since early spring (thank you Richard!), is now full of bees and we look forward to the time when St Mary's starts producing its own honey.

Our very own Jane Henson (PCC member) and luckily for us an experienced apiarist, is taking the lead on this project, soon to be joined by Ken once he has completed his beekeeping course.

On Sunday 8th September, residents of Walpole, Cookley and visitors to the area enjoyed the unique opportunity of cheering on the riders in the final stage of Britain's biggest professional cycle race - the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men.



Well over 150 gathered on Walpole Village Green to enjoy complimentary Pimms, cakes and ice creams supported by grants from East Suffolk Partnerships, East Suffolk Council and Heveningham Hall Estate. Local illustrator and artist - Sara Sayer, inspired by the race, chalked a fun image on the road by the Green to mark the event.

A good time was had by all, making the most of the last of the summer sunshine.

On Saturday 14th September, our team of eight riders took part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride. Members of the PCC manned the church throughout the day, providing tea, coffee and homemade cakes for the visiting riders and striders

Wenhaston

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

St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

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

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

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





In October we have two special events. One is our Harvest Festival on Sunday 13th October at 10.30am. The church will be decorated as usual, many thanks to the flower ladies, the produce will be donated to the Foodbank and Pantry, and any cash donations to RABI the charity that supports the agricultural community in times of hardship.

Our Annual Quiz, which sadly had to be postponed last year due to severe flooding, will take place on Friday 28th October at 7pm for 7.30pm. The application forms are in the Post Office and there will be a bar, raffle and it will cost £16 for a table of four. All profit will be divided between Wenhaston and Thorington churches. We are hoping for a full Village Hall.

I am planning to resign as Treasurer of Wenhaston PCC at the end of the year, or sooner if I move before, and I would like to thank the PCC and Churchwardens I have served with for their patience and encouragement. I have been Treasurer since 2004, so I think it may be time for a new broom! Any offers?

October Services

6th Harvest Festival Linstead, 6.30pm 13th Harvest Festival, 10.30am 20th Holy Communion, 10am 27th Creation Service, 10am

SHCT Ride and Stride

We had quite a few cyclists visit the church on Saturday 14th. James Ellis kindly cycled for St Peter's and I will publish the results later. Thank you

Blyth Valley Times

James and to the stewards who sat in the porch and welcomed cyclists and walkers. **MB**

WENHASTON M U

We were pleased to hold the North Suffolk Area Quiet Day at St Peter's on June 26th and I think that the day was appreciated and enjoyed by all those who joined us. We were blessed by some sunshine to enable those present to use the times for reflection to walk in the village or sit in the churchyard enjoying the peace and beauty of our countryside.

Our Speaker, the Revd Canon Andrew Vessey lead the day with some excellent talks on our theme for the day and he had obviously given a lot of time and thought to the preparation for which we were all very grateful.

Again we were lucky to have reasonable weather for our Summer Garden meeting and we were able to spend the afternoon in the garden at Spindleberry. We all joined in the Wave of Prayer Service and this was followed by tea, cakes and strawberries and cream. It was good to have everyone together for the event and I am grateful for all the help which I received.

There will not be a monthly meeting in August but we will meet again at the Methodist Chapel on Wednesday 11th September when the Speaker will be Deb Johnson who is going to give us up to date news on the "Lighthouse Project" in Ipswich. I look forward to seeing you all again at this meeting!

Margaret G 01502 478378

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

After are summer break Flower club resumed on Tuesday 3rd September. We were treated to a wonderful demonstration by Emily of Robbins



Flowers. Emily trained at Otley College and many of the members knew her when we attended workshops there. Emily demonstrated four lovely arrangements, a bridal bouquet, cake topper, basket and teacup all of which were donated as raffle prizes.

It was thoroughly enjoyable evening and the vote of thanks was given by Sheila.

Our next meeting is:- WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB CHARITY NIGHT IN AID HALESWORTH BRANCH CANCER RESEARCH. Wenhaston Flower Club are proud to be associated with The Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research and will be again raising funds for the vital work carried out by Cancer Research. The Charity Night will take place on Tuesday 1st October in Wenhaston Village Hall at 6.30pm. The night is open to everyone and a warm welcome awaits you all. The night takes the form of a Fair/Bazaar so there will the usual kind of stalls. Tombola, raffle, cakes, books/jigsaws etc but there will also be some brilliant stalls selling hand crafted items including cards. knitted pumpkins and toadstools all ready for Halloween, knitted Christmas items, gifts etc.

Jane Bastow will be there with her lovely plant stall and Cancer Research will be selling their Christmas Cards.

Of course there will be a selection of treats, teas and coffees for refreshments. There is no entry fee, but we apologise for the inconvenience as the event will be cash only. For more information contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.

Wissett

Correspondent Mary Pester 01986 835869 marypester@rocketmail.com

Our Harvest revels now are ended but they were splendid and the church, as I write, is still looking glorious with floral decorations in autumnal shades. The singing and organ playing sounded beautiful that evening of our Harvest Festival service as I was outside the church taking food across to the village hall, the windows all lit from within and an almost full moon.

such a wonderful scene.

It was a very jolly Harvest Supper. Many people have told me how much they enjoyed it all and how delicious the food was, so well done to all those who helped and contributed in any way. Thank you one and all!

The following day, September 14th, was the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride Day. It got off to a slow start and we had no riders from Wissett this year but by the afternoon more riders arrived and admired our church.

That afternoon the light was just right to illuminate the lettering on a whole row of gravestones which doesn't normally show up at all. I felt as if the whole row of Nichols and Harveys of the 18th Century were waving at me, saying, "Here we are, here we are! No more 'rugged elms' but by the yew tree, in certain lights can be seen the inscriptions on those headstones. John Nichols who died on April 21st 1782 in the 80th year of his age... from Queen Anne to George III. An extraordinary thought. A real person with his life then. I wonder if anyone knows anything of those families?

"Beneath those rugged elms, that yew trees shade,

Where heaves the earth in many a mould'ring heap,

Each in his narrow cell for ever laid, The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

Good singing again as we welcomed delightful baby Freddy into our church for his baptism on Sunday 15th. Such a happy occasion.

Unfortunately, due to unforseen circumstances, our proposed Flower Festival that would have taken place in October has now been postponed until the Spring next year.

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.





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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

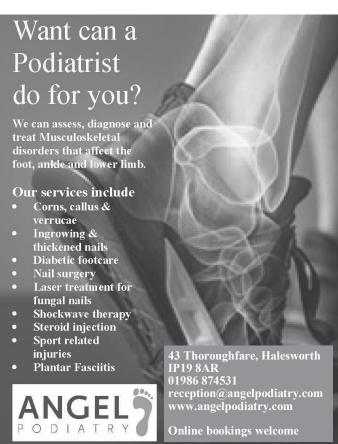
There are collection places for Foodbank donations in Chediston; St Mary's Church, Halesworth; Halesworth Co-op; Holton; Rumburgh; Spexhall (2); Wenhaston and Wissett.

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.





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 Wenhaston. 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

INTERESTED IN FAMILY OR LOCAL HISTORY?

Then come along to the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham IP17 1AL (behind the Library) on Sat 5th October from 11am - 4pm, where the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group will be hosting a Grand Open Day. Last year's Open Day was a highly successful event, and this year's looks to be even better, with many more displays!

Aldeburgh & District Local History Society will be presenting research undertaken by its members, covering aspects of the history of life in our area.

Worlingworth Local History Group will feature the Loyal Worlingworth Volunteers Painting Conservation project, and the 1760 Parish Fire Engine Restoration.

Yoxford History Group's 'Shopping in Yoxford in the 20th Century' will show how the village has changed in light of national shopping habits.

Martlesham Heath Aviation Society and the Control Tower Museum tell the fascinating history of this iconic airfield, from its start in 1917 as a Royal Flying Corps base, then Aircraft Testing Establishment, then Fighter Station that took part in the Dunkirk Evacuation and the Battle of Britain.

Suffolk Family History Society, which celebrates 50 years in 2025, has helped Researchers in Suffolk and around the Globe.

Felixstowe Family History Society has transcripts of Parish Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for most of the parishes in its local area, and has members from all over the place, and are always happy to advise people about their research.

Benhall & Sternfield History Group's Exhibition is entitled: Changes in Farming: A pictorial and oral history display recording the changes in farming in Saxmundham, Benhall & Sternfield since WWII.

Knodishall Local History Group is looking forward to sharing their collection of village photos and ephemera, including their re-discovered WI Millenium Survey. They would love to hear your stories about the village and look forward to chatting with you at the Open Day.

The Long Shop Museum in Leiston will also have a display, as will Saxmundham & District Local History Society and Friston History Group, and Janet Barnes will have information about the History of Farms in Middleton.

And last but definitely not least, the hosts, Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group, is making available a dedicated room where you can research local war memorials and graveyard surveys, old directories, parish registers and historic maps.

Experienced family history researchers will be on hand to give free help and advice in tracing your ancestors, including the use of DNA testing.

Free admission, but donations welcome. Light refreshments. Good free car parking.

For more info, see our website: https://avsfhg.org.uk/

WILD CHURCH BLYFORD

Third Sunday of the Month 10am

A service of prayer, poetry and contemplation in Blyford Churchyard 20th October & 17th November

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WHAT'S ON

HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER, 10am-12pm
HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL,
LODGE ROAD, IP19 8RZ
Tea/coffee and delicious cakes
Please come and support us.



Walpole Old Chapel



Sunday 13th October, 3pm The Laxefelders

The Taxing Issue of Tithing - A lively tale of tithing through the ages in Suffolk. This is local history with music, lots of hats, a few crowns and one rabbit.

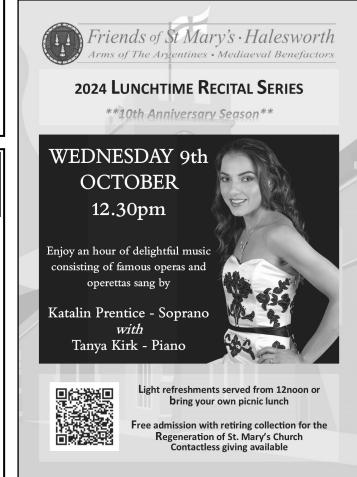
To book tickets before the event, go to: www.ticketsource.co.uk

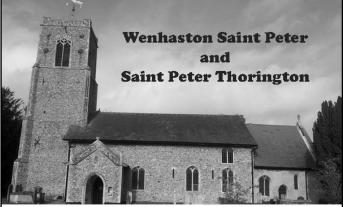
Put 'Walpole Old Chapel' in the search bar and you will be able to buy tickets at £12 each.

Or you can pay on the door for £15 each.

For further information: www.walpoleoldchapel.org/programme

The Chapel is open to the public on Saturday and Bank Holiday afternoons, 2pm - 4.30pm. Until September 28th.





Two-Saint-Peter's Quiz

Friday 25th October Wenhaston Village Hall

Raffle

7 for 7.30

Bar

Entry £16 for a table of four Proceeds in aid of both churches

Forms available at Wenhaston Post Office

"Awake Arise"

A Christmas Show For Our Times



Lady Maisery
with Jimmy Aldridge
& Sid Goldsmith

St Mary's Church Halesworth

6th December 6.30 for 7.30pm

Tickets: £18 pre 1st October then £20



Book early! Eventbrite, Halesworth Bookshop

or call 07572 872512



Walking the Labyrinth - A Time for Reflection



Monday 7th October St Peter's Church, Holton

Theme for reflective craft: Footprints

Everyone Welcome

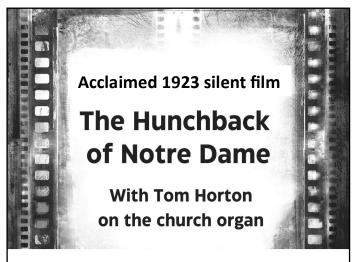
Refreshments provided. People will be available if you want someone to talk to after your walk.



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

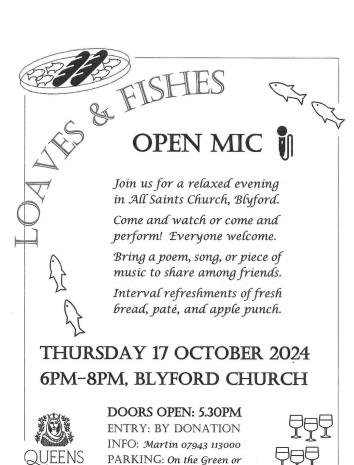
Future meetings:

Monday 4th November and Monday 2nd December



Friday 15 November 7pm Adults £10 Under 21s £5 St Mary's Church, Halesworth Tickets on Eventbrite NO FEE!

Quiz Night In aid of Halesworth Festive Lights Friday 25th October 7pm for 7.30pm start At Holton & Blyford Village Hall Raffle on the night Prizes greatly appreciated Drinks to be purchased at venue Book now to avoid disappointment Maximum of 6 per team Tickets £5 per person Available from... Halesworth Bookshop 42 Thoroughfare Halesworth 01986 873840



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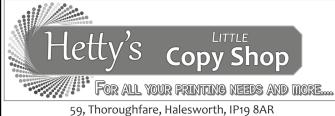
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The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Halesworth 2024 concert / events highlights

27, 28, 29 September

HalesworthASH

Climate Conference one year on!

See website for full details - www.halesworthash.com

Wednesday, 9 October

12noon for 12.30pm

Katalin Prentice - Soprano

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's

FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch

Sunday, 10 November

2.30 for 3pm

Town Remembrance Service

Gather at the library for 2.30pm, parade to the Church for a 3pm

Act of Remembrance concluding in the Arboretum

Wednesday, 13 November

12noon for 12.30pm

St Mary's Handbell Ringers

A lunchtime recital organised by the Friends of St. Mary's

FREE ENTRY / retiring collection / refreshments / bring your own lunch

Friday, 15 November

7pm

Silent Film Night - Hunchback of Notre Dame

With musical accompaniment on the organ by TOM HORTON

Tickets £10 on sale nearer the time

Saturday, 23 November

Halesworth Christmas Lights switch-on - SANTAS GROTTO

St Mary's will be hosting Santa's grotto once again, come enjoy some cake, hot cocoa and the festivities

Friday, 6 December

7pm

LADY MAISERY CONCERT—'AWAKE ARISE'

"The most exquisite vocal harmony work on the English folk scene"

Friday, 13 December

6pm

Rosedale Funeral Home - Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance

Join as we remember loved ones at Christmas. An opportunity to light a candle, pray, remember.

Thursday, 19 December

2pm

All access Carol Service

A carol service with a difference! LARGE print order of service, different organisations who support local people taking part. OPEN TO ALL

Friday, 20 December

7pm

TOWN CAROL SERVICE

Everyone is welcome to this traditional Nine & Lessons Carols service

Christmas Eve

4.30pm

CHILDRENS CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Come early for a seat! Bring all the family, 95 Christingles were handed out last year!

Christmas Eve

11.30pm

MIDNIGHT MASS

Worship with us on this most Holy Night as we celebrate Holy Communion

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For more details about any of our concerts or events, or if you wish to hire St. Mary's for your concert, meeting, event get in touch via... www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk 601986 875941 07817 863533