

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

December 2024

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Acts of Remembrance across the Blyth Valley Churches



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

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December 2024 Lectionary

for Traditional and Holy Communion only.

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

Sunday 1st

Traditional Communion (KJV) – First in Advent (Purple)

Romans 13: 8 – end
Matthew 21: 1 – 13

Holy Communion (NRSV) – First of Advent (Purple)

1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9
Mark 13: 24 – 37

Sunday 8th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Second in Advent (Purple)

Romans 15: 4 – 13
Luke 21: 25 – 33

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Second of Advent (Purple)

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15
Mark 1: 1 – 8

Sunday 15th

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Third in Advent (Purple)

1 Corinthians 4: 1 – 5
Matthew 11: 2 – 10

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Third of Advent (Purple)

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24
John 1: 6 – 8 and 19 – 28

Sunday 22nd

Traditional Communion (KJV) – Fourth in Advent (Purple)

Philippians 4: 4 – 7
John 1: 19 – 28

Holy Communion (NRSV) – Fourth of Advent (Purple)

Romans 16: 25 – 27
Luke 1: 26 – 38

Sunday 29th

Traditional Communion - The Sunday After (White)

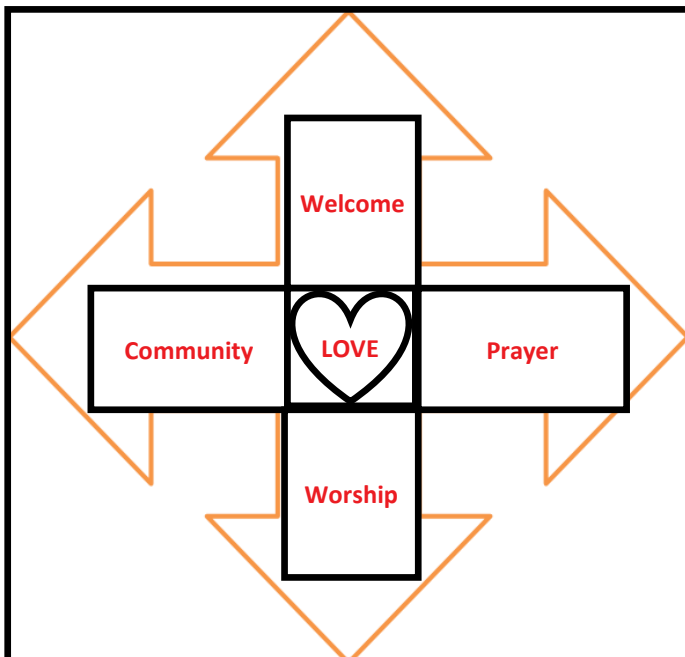
Galatians 4: 1 – 7
Matthew 1: 18 – 21

Holy Communion (NRSV) – First of Christmas (White)

Galatians 4: 4 – 7
Luke 2: 15 – 21



**WISHING EVERYONE
A
HOLY, BLESSED
AND
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
SEASON**



**BLYTH VALLEY PARISHES
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 4th December 2024

7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Holton

Please could all Parishes try to ensure that they have a representative attend the meeting. Thank you.

Worship in the Blyth Valley in December 2024					
CW – Year C Continuous CW	1st CW – First of - BCP – First in Advent, Purple	8th CW – Second of - BCP – Second in Advent, Purple	15th CW – Third of - BCP – Third in Advent, Purple	22nd CW – Fourth of - BCP – Fourth in Advent, Purple	29th CW – First of - BCP – Sunday After Christmas, White
Halesworth St Mary	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Holy Communion Dominic 6pm Evensong Dominic	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Family Communion Linda	8am Traditional Communion Dominic 10am Iona Service Jason	8am Matins Jason 10am Holy Communion Dominic	10am Holy Communion Gini
St Peter Grp					
Holton St Peter		10am Morning Prayer Veronica M	10am Iona Service Veronica M	6pm Carol Service Gini	
Wenhaston St Peter		10.30am United Service Methodist Chapel	10am Holy Communion Dominic	10am Holy Communion Linda	
Bramfield St Andrew			3pm Carol Service Linda		
Blyford All Saints					
Thorington St Peter					
St Andrew Grp					
Wissett St Andrew		10am Morning Prayer David		6.30pm Carol Service Dominic	
Chediston St Mary		10am Holy Communion Dominic			
Spexhall St Peter		3pm Carol Service Gini			
Linstead St Margaret				3pm Candlelight Carols Win	
St Michael Grp					
Cookley St Michael			9.30am Traditional Communion Jonathan		
Heveningham St Margaret		4pm Carol Service Dominic			
Huntingfield St Mary					
Walpole St Mary					

Additional Regular Service: 9.30am Thursdays, Morning Prayer, St Andrew Bramfield.

Additional December Services: **Thurs 12th, 5.30pm,** Prayers at All Saints followed by carols at The Queens Head Blyford – Dominic.

Fri 13th, 6pm, Rosedale's Service of Remembrance, St Mary Halesworth - Dominic.

Thurs 19th, 2pm, All Access Carols, St Mary Halesworth – Gini.

Fri 20th, 7pm, Town Carol Service, St Mary Halesworth – Dominic. **Fri 20th, 7pm,** Carol Service, St Peter, Wenhaston – Alison A.

Sat 21st, 2pm, Carol Service, St Mary Huntingfield – Dominic. **Sat 21st, 4pm,** Quiet Service, St Mary Walpole – Gini.

Tues 24th, 3pm, Crib Service, St Mary Walpole – Linda. **Tues 24th, 4pm,** Crib/Christingle St Peter Holton – Dominic.

Tues 24th, 4pm, Crib Service, St Andrew Wissett – Veronica M. **Tues 24th, 4.30pm,** St Mary Halesworth, Christingle – Alison A.

Tues 24th, 5pm, St Peter Holton, Holy Communion – Dominic. **Tues 24th, 6.30pm,** Carol Service, St Peters Thorington – Jim.

Tues 24th, 6.45pm, Carol Service, St Mary Chediston – Veronica D. **Tues 24th, 7pm,** Holy Communion, St Peter's Wenhaston – Linda.

Tues 24th, 11.30pm, Midnight Mass, St Mary Halesworth – Dominic. **Tues 24th, 11.30pm,** Midnight Mass, St Margaret Heveningham

– Alison A. **Tues 24th, 11.30pm,** Midnight Mass, St Peter Spexhall – David.

Wed 25th, 10am, Family Communion, St Mary Halesworth – Dominic. **Wed 25th, 10am,** Holy Communion, St Andrew Wissett – Gini.

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Coles Lane, Wenhaston

Minister: The Revd Martin Keenan

DECEMBER 2024

- 1st Mr D Tiueti
 8th The Revd Iain McKillop (US)
 15th The Revd Martin Keenan (HC)
 22nd Local Arrangement - Carol Service
 29th Mrs Laura Lawrance-Martin

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30am
(unless stated otherwise)

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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

DECEMBER SERVICES

- Sunday 1st 11am Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon
 Tuesday 3rd 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
- Friday 6th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and
 Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
- Sunday 8th 11am Gathered Worship Children's Nativity
 Tuesday 10th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
- Friday 13th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and
 Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
 6pm URC CAROL SERVICE
- Sunday 15th 11am Gathered Worship Minister Jon Sermon
 3pm Bramfield Chapel Carol Service
- Tuesday 17th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
- Friday 20th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and
 Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
- Sunday 22nd 11am Gathered Worship TBA
 Tuesday 24th 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at
 Lowestoft followed by Morning Worship
- Wednesday 25th 10.30am CHRISTMAS DAY Service
- Friday 27th 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and
 Zoom followed by Coffee Morning
- Sunday 29th 11am Gathered Worship TBA
 Tuesday 31st 10am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Lowestoft
 followed by Morning Worship
- Friday 3rd Jan 9.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church and
 Zoom followed by Coffee Morning

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



The
 United
 Reformed
 Church

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 Canon Alison Alder at:
revalialder@gmail.com

or

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



From the Rector...



Regular dog walkers, and folks who make use of the seats on the sunny side of the church whilst eating their fish and chips, among others, will have noticed our sparkly new paths! Thank you to East Suffolk District Council and their high quality contractors for an excellent job on our closed churchyard. The independent charity which is our Parochial Church Council (PCC) tenant the land under the ownership of the Church Commissioners. However, as the churchyard is closed to burials, being full, the district have responsibility for its management.

As with any staged home improvements, the down side with the path work is that it shows up in even more stark relief how much the building itself is in need of some loving care and attention. Back in early 2015, the Eastern Daily Press reported a 'Major project gets underway to enhance and improve Halesworth church'. Since then what you might not have seen is that some significant funds have been raised by the PCC sub-committee called Friends of St Mary's, not least through their acclaimed lunchtime Concert Series. We have had a significant bequest too. What you may have seen, however, is that pews have been removed and chairs generously donated. A temporary floor and carpeting have been installed. This has provided a space that is already being creatively and energetically used by a number of our own and other community initiatives. See how may you can list!

In the last couple of years, earlier plans have been reviewed by the PCC assisted by their sub-committee and a refreshed Steering Group including people from the town and around. Following some really boring engineering, we have discovered – ironically – that the church is built on sand. So, our architect is on the verge of being able to submit a roof, drains, soakaway and repairs proposal to the church's internal planning permission body called the Diocesan Advisory Committee on Churches and Churchyards. These works costing in the region of £250,000, are an essential precursor to any other internal reordering, as the building needs to dry out over three to six years first. We are also pleased to say that the council are going to do some tree work to reduce leaves blocking the drains and allow more sun and air movement to hasten the drying of the building.

Permissions for these internal improvements require a Statement of Significance, setting out the important features that need to be worked around, or dealt with sensitively. This document sits alongside a Statement of Needs, which details the designs and locations of the specific improvements we are seeking. These are glazed doors and a level stone floor incorporating a labyrinth design. Also, toilets and kitchen as at Southwold; heating and lighting as at Beccles, alongside new office space and storage. The Chancel and Lady Chapel will be retained contributing their

significant presence. The organ needs either replacing or a root and branch overhaul. The bells similarly need a £60,000 facelift. Though they punch well above their weight, I should add that this ambition is well beyond our current PCC reserves and personnel.

It is my hope that someone reading this is thinking to themselves why is this taking them all so long. If I were involved it would all have been done and dusted by now! If you said that to me in person I would say how impressed I was with your passion and energy. Evidently, you are just the person we have been waiting for to come forward as either our project manager or fundraiser! Happily, St Mary's, Halesworth, is not the only church in our group offering enthusiasts of all faiths and none the rare opportunity to help look after the living tradition of a building and its money; or organise and authorise events and income, and oil the wheels of community involvement and benefit generally. Do get in touch with me or the relevant Churchwarden if you would like to offer your skills and abilities to make even more of these wonderful resources than the current PCCs are able to pull off. Whilst there are claims circulating that the church is one of the biggest landlords in the land etc, those central funds held by the Church Commissioners are limited to that charity's aims and objectives. These, sadly, do not include provision of revenue for ministry nor capital grants for building improvements. Though there are generous benefactors who may be approached, such as Suffolk Historic Churches and the National Lottery.

On the subject of aims and objectives, I will end with the aims that our Statement of Needs starts with: It is the hope of the PCC, Friends and Steering Group that a re-ordering will re-establish the interior of St Mary's Halesworth as a regionally significant awe-inspiring community hub of heritage. The building will be expected to express spirituality, sanctuary and creativity generally. It will reference the towns brewing history and Blyth Valley location specifically, also incorporating the Hookers with their Kew connection, Lansbury's efforts for social justice and the Buxton anti-slavery campaigns. Please help us help you make this vision a reality, thank you.

Dominic

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**HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD
UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES**

Revd Jon Sermon – Minister

Dear Friends,

In some of my preaching, recently, I have been reflecting on the Gifts of the Spirit. And in particular the reality that Jesus wants his church to be equipped for effective mission. Jesus told the first disciples "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)

And alongside gaining a Biblical understanding of how we can be gifted – thus becoming more effective witnesses – we need to understand the necessary balance with the inner work of the Holy Spirit, growing fruit of good character.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul brings this out powerfully by 'sandwiching' massive teaching about love between sections on spiritual gifting.

And now we are entering Advent and looking towards Christmas. Our focus turns towards marking, again, the coming of Jesus Christ, making all of this possible.

Through Churches Together, we are pleased to host the Advent tea and worship on Sunday 1st December at 3pm. Please come to our building for this ecumenical celebration.

We have the additional excitement that (along with our sister church at Lowestoft) we are welcoming an ordination student on placement.

Our links with Uganda through Romans 1.11 Trust continue.

Here is a photograph from the graduation of students at Wanyange, Jinja during this year's visit.



Plans for the 2025 visit are now underway and I am happy to hear from anyone wishing to explore the possibility of coming with us. The training that Romans 1.11 Trust provide is crucial in an environment of huge church growth with an increasing need for trained Pastors. I am also keen to hear from those willing to give a little to help fund this important Kingdom work.

The men and women on the course are putting into practice the openness to receive gifting from the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses. But they do need sound Biblical training to put this into context.

Blessings

Jon



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

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What has your Team Vicar been up to?

It's a short column from me this month, although the month has not been short on eventfulness. It has been a time of remembering as well as looking forward. There is so much to prepare for, but I have been most excited about welcoming Lady Maisery back, with Jimmy Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith

who will be doing their lovely winter show "Awake Arise" on Friday 6th December at St Mary's Church in Halesworth – so timely during Advent!

I have also been preparing for our wonderful All Access Carol Service at 2pm on Thursday 19th December which will feature participation from Mencap, the residents of Beech House and the Dementia Carers' Fund Singing Group. It is a very relaxed Carol Service, ideal for people who might find it difficult to come to a more traditional service.

Halesworth Volunteers will be providing a delicious

afternoon tea afterwards. It should all be wrapped up by 4pm at the very latest.

To bring the tone down a notch, toilet facilities will be available at St Mary's church for all events in the shape of an accessible portaloos just outside. Needs must!

I am very pleased to be offering a Quiet Service this year. Christmas can be overwhelming for anyone, but especially people who find this time of year difficult. This service aims to offer a quiet time for personal reflection and prayer. A time to simply pause, take a breath and find some peace. It will be held on Saturday 21st December in Walpole church at 4pm.

I hope you all have a good Christmas, get some rest, spend some time doing something that brings you joy and survive the festivities in one piece!

With every blessing for a new year filled with love, joy and peace.

There's always hope!

Gini xxx

All Access Carol Service
 St Mary's Church, Halesworth
 ON THURSDAY
 DECEMBER 19TH
 AT 2PM
 FOLLOWED BY TEA PROVIDED BY
 Halesworth Volunteers

Quiet Christmas Service
 Walpole Parish Church
 4 - 5pm
 Saturday 21st December
 If you find Christmas hard or simply need a break from the the hustle and bustle of the festive season
 why not come along and pause in the peaceful surroundings of a beautiful sacred space.
 This service will be led by Rev'd Gini Williams

It's time for Christingle again.
 St. Mary's Church Halesworth
Christmas Eve
 4.30pm
 ALL ARE WELCOME



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Halesworth Scarecrow Festival 2024

Wow! What another incredible Halesworth Scarecrow Festival we have had this year. We loved everyone's scarecrows and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in Halesworth who got involved and made the event such a fantastic time for all.

The best scarecrow, winning first place, was the Gingerbread Man at Tinkers (*see photos*); running away with 39 votes and lots of happy children. In second place was Gru in the Angel Podiatry, with 29 votes and lots of minions were definitely on the loose in Halesworth. Third place went to the Angel Hotel with 26 votes for Olaf, who let it snow for the whole two weeks with his little cloud!

worked with us to make the Festival so successful. Thank you East Suffolk Lines, who put on an amazing train fare that encouraged people to travel to Halesworth. St Mary's Church Halesworth who displayed some of the scarecrows and also did scarecrow crafts, a light party and a family picnic. Thank you to Halesworth Library who did an incredible storytelling day all about fairy tales, as well as being a place to pick up hunt sheets.



Thank you to Halesworth Bookshop who ran an event and gave out hunt sheets. Hetty's Little Copy Shop for all the printing, organising and handing out hunt sheets. Also Purple Pumpkin Studio who ran an event as part of the Scarecrow Festival.

And finally, a massive thank you to the businesses who sponsored the event, Denson's Jewellers, Toby's Eggs, Allen's Butchers, S J Geometrics and Tulula's Fish and Chip shop.

Thank you again!

Hetty and I will soon begin planning for the next event which will be held at Easter 2025.

Hetty and Pauline



LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS IN NOVEMBER

FUNERALS/INTERMENT OF ASHES

- Susan Kemble at Thorington
- Frances Quinton at Holton
- Bryan Samain at Halesworth
- Jeffrey Boocock at Huntingfield
- Rosemary Goddard at Holton
- Joan Williamson at Chediston

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Autumn News from Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund

Musical Spectacular: We shall be holding a musical spectacular at Holton Village Hall on Saturday 7th December, beginning at 7.30pm. We have some great acts to enjoy, and even a team of Bollywood dancers. It should be a really lively and fun evening. There will be a bar and grand raffle, and all proceeds from the evening will be going to HDCF. Tickets, at £10 each, are available from Hetty's Little Copy Shop, or by calling John on 07840982171.

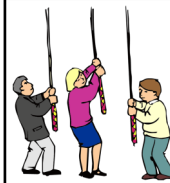
100+ Club: This now has 150 members. There are prizes every month of £100, £75, £50 and £25. If you would to become a member and have a really good chance of winning one of these prizes please contact Anna on 07721 842802.

Activities and Volunteering: The HDCF runs an exciting range of activities every week. These include Seated Movement to Music (Mondays), Memory Café (Tuesdays), Singing with Friends (Wednesdays), Creative Art (Thursdays) Seated and Standing Tap (Fridays) and Carers Support Group (Fridays). If you would like to join one of these groups full details are on our website, or call us on 07990 199632, and you would be most welcome.

If you are interested in helping out at any of these groups do please come along and join us.

Collection: On Saturday 14th December we shall be holding a collection at the Halesworth Co-op. We are most grateful to the Co-op for allowing us to hold this collection, and hope to see you there.

John Wood



From the Ringing Chamber

One of the many fun activities of ringing is an outing. These may involve an afternoon's trip to a couple of towers just up the road, or a fortnight on another continent, or anything in between. We were pleased to welcome a band of ringers from Cambridgeshire who came here to ring at Halesworth, Blythburgh, Wenhaston and Huntingfield one Saturday. The trip was organised by Mike's daughter, Clare, whose band consisted of about 20 ringers of diverse ages and abilities.

We successfully scored the second attempt for a quarter peal of Netherseale Surprise Minor at Wissett, albeit with reinforcements from Beccles due to illness. Then we rang the usual first Sunday quarter at Halesworth with Lizzie from Metfield, a regular visitor, ringing her first on eight bells. The following Tuesday saw just six people turn up for the practice at Blythburgh, so we took the opportunity to knock off another quarter, and finally there were just six again at Chediston on the Thursday, and a fourth quarter was rung in 6 days. It's an excellent way to consolidate what we have been practising, and very good for the concentration.

The annual meeting of the NE District of the Suffolk Guild was held at Southwold. After all the elections, I am still District Ringing Master, Erika is Assistant Secretary, and both of us, plus Joanna, represent the District on the Guild's Management Committee. On top of that Pete is a member of the Guild's Belfry Advisory Committee, so as a band we are quite involved in Guild/District affairs.

PJG

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The Pear Tree Fund
In partnership with the Pear Tree Fund

Children's, Family and Youth Update



On Sunday 27th October, we had our very first Light Party at St Mary's church in Halesworth.

A light party is a Christian alternative to Halloween, celebrating the light of Jesus in the world and encouraging us to go out and share our light. We would like to say a huge thank you to Halesworth Co-op who donated 12 pumpkins for us to do positive pumpkin carving and decorating. We had a lovely time together and made some new friends. We also enjoyed some delicious hot dogs donated by Bramfield Meats.

Followed by a straw-tastic time on Monday 28th October, for our scarecrow crafts in partnership with East Suffolk Lines, Visit Halesworth and Halesworth Scarecrow Festival. We saw 16 adults and nine children arrive via train from Lowestoft to join in the Scarecrow Festival and refreshments/crafts in St Mary's church. We had an incredibly turn-out of over 80 people through the church! We made beautiful masks, jar scarecrows, paper plate scarecrow faces, dolly peg scarecrows and created some child-size scarecrows. A massive thank you to Spar in Halesworth who helped us to provide refreshments for all by donating a £60 Spar voucher. We had an amazing time, talking, playing and crafting. There was a buzz of enjoyment in the church; and a lot of straw!



On Thursday 31st October, we had our family picnic and toy exchange. The focus of the family picnic this time was Jesus being our lighthouse in the storms of life. We did some lighthouse crafts, enjoyed a short message with a music time learning the song *My Lighthouse* by Rend Collective, played and had some very tasty food! It was another lovely family picnic with 15 children and 14 adults present. We will not be having a family picnic over the Christmas holiday, but our next one will be in the February

half-term; alongside another toy exchange.

We would again like to say thank you to Halesworth Spar for another £20 voucher towards food for this event. It was a perfect end to all of our half-term fun.

Finishing the busy half-term by sharing with the congregation at the team service, the fantastic news of the funding we have received and how it is being used across the Blyth Valley Churches. Building upon the work that we are doing with children, families and young people. It certainly is a fantastic time to be involved in the churches and to see what happens next.

We also held a family service with a twist for Remembrance Day, doing breakfast church. This was a fun and joyful morning (with a lot of laughter). As we shared croissants, had a little message from Gini, danced and sang some new songs and had a time of prayer together.

St Mary's Church - Dates for the Diary:

Church Mice Tots Group meets every Thursday from 11.30am till 1pm. With a special session, having lunch and story-time with Santa on Thursday 12th December (usual time).

Youth Space is every Monday night from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. We will be having a Christmas Gingerbread House competition on Monday 16th December (usual time).

November 23rd is the **Halesworth Festive Lights Switch On**, with Santa's Grotto in the church from 2.30pm-3.30pm and 5.30pm. There will also be other activities and some hot chocolate, mulled wine and delicious treats.

Family Services are held on the second Sunday of every month at St Mary's church in Halesworth the next one being December 8th at 10am.

Christingle Service is on December 24th at St Mary's Halesworth, 4.30pm.

Christmas Craft Session is on December 7th, 3pm-5pm.

Starting Right - I am looking to launch a Starting Right group in February 2025. Starting Right is a session run with babies/carers to help them connect with each other and begin their spiritual journey. To find out more please contact Pauline.

Prayer Points

Please join us as we give thanks for the incredible funding that we have been provided with and all of the opportunities that we currently have. It has been amazing to connect with so many people in and around Halesworth, pray with us that we will continue to strengthen relationships, make new connections and take opportunities to share our faith. We give thanks to all of the amazing volunteers who give up their time and those working in partnership with us. We also ask for your prayers for the success and opportunities of our regular and one off upcoming events.

As we head into the Christmas season, we remember that for some children, families and young people this may be a time of sadness, stress, hunger and disappointment. Four million children in the UK live below the poverty line, this statistic is very high. This Christmas, join us as we pray that no child goes hungry and that everyone gets a special Christmas meal. Pray with us for protection over households where people are victims of domestic violence, where incidents often increase by 25% in the Christmas period. Pray with us that our churches can offer a sanctuary, support and a safe place this Christmas for those in need.

For those who would like to join us in person our next monthly prayer meetings for children, family and youth will be on November 28th from 9.30am till 10.30am and December 19th from 9.30am till 10.30am at St Mary's church, Halesworth.
Pauline Milsted



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THANK YOU

Maureen would like to say thank you to all who leave milk container tops at Queen's Close, Halesworth.
Tel 01986 873393.

HALESWORTH BRANCH OF CANCER RESEARCH

Our very popular Jumble Sale on Saturday 19th October turned out to be a mammoth event and we were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone who donated such good quality items. There were bargains to be found on all the stalls and the clothes rails.

At the end of the sale, we did a 'one off' impromptu "fill a carrier bag for £1", which helped us achieve an incredible £1351.95. This includes £82.47 from the sale of the Cancer Research Christmas Cards.

Thank you to Nikki and Jane for keeping everyone supplied with teas, coffees and the wonderful selection of cakes at the event. Thank you to Halesworth Co-op for very generously donating a magnificent hamper for our raffle, which raised £174 and was won by Mr and Mrs Petchy from Halesworth. The Halloween bucket, kindly donated by Morrison's, was won by volunteer Gill. A third prize mysteriously appeared on the raffle table and no-one seems to know where it came from, so whoever donated it thank you very much, it was very kind of you.

Our next Jumble Sale will be on February 8th 2025 and, if you feel like having a "sort out" in the new year, please think of us as we are always grateful for saleable items.



Valerie, Jenny and Gill setting up the ladies' clothes stall.

Come along to our events to catch up over a cup of tea, you are contributing to the incredible ground breaking work at Cancer Research UK. Today's research is tomorrow's cure and together we will beat cancer.

The committee and volunteers at the Halesworth Branch of Cancer Research wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Thank you all for supporting us. **Dawn Davis, 01986 873640**



Decorate a Tree for the Festival



Join in with St Mary's Halesworth Christmas Tree Festival and promote your business, organisation or group. Choose a theme or line from any Christmas carol and bring your tree to St Mary's on Friday 13th December or Saturday morning (14th).

Trees can be large and stand on the floor, or smaller to fit on a table. Everyone is welcome, however small your business or group. If you don't want to decorate a tree, please come and see the Festival. There are always a variety of trees: some are witty, others look good, some are heart-warming. All are interesting!

The Festival runs from December 14th to Twelfth Night (January 6th).

For further information and advice, or to book a spot for your tree, contact Jo Thackray, tel 07740675860.

Email: joannathackray5@gmail.com



Christmas Special On-line Event

The Dunamis ministry is putting on a 90 minute interactive event. Looking at Christmas through the role of the Inn keeper who opened the door to the Saviour of the World.

Come and pause a while, in the busyness of festive preparations, to join in with: uplifting worship, poetry, prose and a short Christmas message, prayer and reflection.

To register for this uplifting experience, shared with Christians of all denominations across the nation and internationally, go to the website: www.dunamis.org.uk

When: Wednesday 18th December, 7pm-8.30pm

Where: Wherever you are via Zoom

(or get a group together in a home or church hall)
The Dunamis Fellowship in Britain & Ireland (DFB&I)



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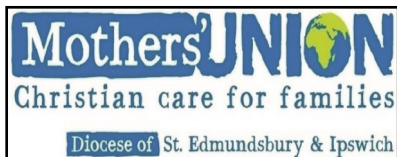
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Email: Hollsewell@gmail.com





Page includes excerpts from
Transformation Now! -
November 2024 No 58.
www.musuffolk.org.uk
Charity No 249726

North Suffolk Area Afternoon. This took place on Thurs 19th September at Westleton Church. We welcomed the Revd Susan Taylor, who gave an interesting talk about her visit with the Bishop to Kagera. There was an opportunity to buy from a produce stall and purchase raffle tickets. Clare Thomas came along with her range of MU cards and gifts. The Revd Susan led a short service at the end of the afternoon.

Christmas Cards for Prisoners – We have been trying to expand our work in prisons in the diocese. It is likely that we will need to make more Christmas cards for prisoners in 2025. Some branches include card making on their programme. If your branch would like to have a workshop to make some of the cards we need, please contact Sue Norrington 07913 488670.



Introducing Sarah. Hello, my name is Sarah and I am going to be taking over from Sue in the new year, writing the newsletters for our Diocesan members. Starting at the very beginning, I am a real Suffolk girl, born at Heath Road hospital in Ipswich. I grew up in Hadleigh where my dad was the local butcher, same as his father before him and his grandfather, who started his

butchery business in the town before 1900! Grandma (dad's mum) was a lifelong member of the Mothers' Union which was why I always wanted to join, although I never got round to joining until 2018 when I turned 50. My life hasn't been plain sailing, is anyone's? I was widowed at 42 and became a single parent to our two sons, who were just ten and thirteen at the time. No stranger to writing, I published my memoir **In Search of Lost Glitter** in January this year. I look forward to sharing more of my story with you and hopefully hearing about yours. Sarah xx

Christmas is coming – Don't forget to order Christmas cards and gifts from the Mothers' Union catalogue. You could also give a gift of MU Membership! If you need help with your order, 'phone Clare Thomas 01473 832808. Your purchases help to fund life changing work around the world.

Literacy As a women-led movement with a passion for transforming and improving family and community life, we are concerned about the number of people in our world, who cannot read or write. MU aims to put women's education on the global agenda for the UK government.

Council Meeting on November 4th. This began with a short service led by the Revd Catherine Forsdike. These meetings offer the chance for discussion, reports on new initiatives

and looking at our financial position. On Sat 15th March 2025, there will be a Members/Grandparents Day at St John's Church, Cauldwell Road, Ipswich IP4 5QE. Please put this date in your diary. The outgoing Provincial President Kathryn Anderson spoke about growing our membership. Thanks were expressed to several Trustees and Officers who are finishing their terms of office. Linda Ginn was thanked for her hard work as Diocesan President over the last six years and was presented with a special photo book marking her time in this role.

Jeanette Appleton talked about the MU postholders as we start the new triennium. Many roles have been filled but a few more people are needed. **Could you help? We are looking for: Diocesan Correspondence Secretary** (half the current Secretary Role). **Rep for AFIA** (the time needed would be about two hours every three months). **Parenting Rep** (to coordinate applications for help with school uniform purchase - again, this would be just a few hours over the year). **General Trustee** (about 6 meetings a year which can be accessed. in person or on Zoom). **Communication Lead** (Can you support the new Diocesan President to help create the monthly newsletters?). If you could help with any of these roles, please contact Jeanette Appleton on 07768 418942.

The Mothers' Union Christmas Appeal 2024. This will be launched on December 3rd. Your support will help us continue our vital work, empowering families and communities in need across the world. You can double your impact and change lives. Starting at noon on December 3rd, your donation will be matched by the Big Give, meaning every pound you give will go twice as far in helping women like Francine build brighter futures. Thanks to the One More Step Programme, she not only lifted her family out of poverty but strengthened her faith and her community. With your help, we can expand this successful pilot to six more dioceses in Burundi, reaching 4,000 people in the first year alone. By supporting literacy circles and savings groups, we will empower women to overcome gender inequality, improve agricultural practices, build business knowledge and reduce gender-based violence in their communities.

16 Days of Activism campaign - November 25th to December 10th. Throughout this campaign, we join with over 6000 organisations from over 185 countries to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender -based violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies. Gender-based violence can affect anyone at any time and it takes many forms. It can be part of a damaging cultural norm or hidden behind closed doors. We believe that we must bring this out into the light. From providing essential items for refugees, organising workshops on gender-based issues in schools and prisons to supporting the families of survivors to heal and rebuild important family bonds through its 'Away From It All' holidays', MU members are constantly looking for ways to help. Resources can be found on the Mothers' Union website.

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Morsbags, the bags that money can't buy, are now making a huge impact in Halesworth, Suffolk. In just a few months we have made and given away 2,500 + Morsbags, and more and more people are spreading our story.

Morsbags are strong, reusable, recycled, unique bags made from textiles otherwise destined for landfill and given away for free to replace plastic bags.

Over 500,000 Morsbags, potentially replacing over 273 million plastic bags, are made by volunteers in nearly 3000 pods in 30 countries, by schools, community payback schemes, students, Guides, in synagogues, churches and mosques, elderly groups, fabulous individuals and even King Charles! They are then given away to shoppers, strangers, food banks, libraries and community centres for FREE.

It's a 'pay it forward', random act of kindness idea and has entirely spread by the labels on the bags and by word of mouth.

Morsbags are so much more sustainable than newly produced 'bags for life' which commonly use new materials such as cotton (pesticide and fertiliser pollution, uses and pollutes huge amounts of water etc) and then are transported across the world.

Morsbags are made locally from material already produced. Across the world 10's of 1000's of people have learnt to sew, made friends and feel part of something positive (this was especially apparent during the pandemic when we had a lot of messages from people struggling with mental health who were grateful to be involved with a creative and positive community). As Morsbags values have grown, the stories have flooded in; of people of all ages learning new skills,

mental health improvement, rehabilitation programmes, bereavement help, dementia help, food banks, of memories jogged due to fabric use, of cake being shared, of hope and fulfilment in communities becoming connected.

Morsbags are based on kindness, creativity and a conviction that we can make a difference - one Morsbag at a time - especially for the whales and sea creatures who mistake plastic bags for lunch.

For more information and to discover how you can help please contact:

Facebook: [halesworthmorsbagsgroup](https://www.facebook.com/halesworthmorsbagsgroup)

Email: morsbagsinhalesworth@gmail.com

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](https://www.facebook.com/blythvalleychurchessuffolk)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

Can anyone spare one or two Wednesday mornings (from 10am - 11.30am) each month to come and help us at Waveney Foodbank in St Mary's church Halesworth, please?

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

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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
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1st Halesworth Scout Group Charity Christmas Card Collection 2024

Collection dates for this year's post are:

Saturday 23rd Nov until 10am, Saturday 14th Dec

1st Halesworth Scouts are offering their special Christmas postal service to Halesworth and Holton for 2024. We are asking for a donation of **40p per card** – please put your cards and money in the special Scout Christmas post boxes, this service offers fantastic value compared to the ever-increasing prices of Royal Mail. Please write the **full address with postcode** clearly on the envelope.

Members of 1st Halesworth Scouts Group will deliver your Christmas cards by Friday 20th December.

Cards will be delivered to Halesworth and Holton addresses only. We CANNOT deliver to any other location.

Postbox locations: Halesworth Library, Allen's Butchers, D C Patrick Newsagent, Halesworth Co-op, Coopers, Market Fields Farm Shop, Edgar Sewter Primary School – *this box is only available to parents of children at the school.*

This service is a major fundraising event for 1st Halesworth Scout Group and requires many hours of work by the leaders and families of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. "We endeavour to deliver all the cards we receive that have a full address. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports our Scout Group by using the service and especially the businesses which allow our boxes to be placed in their premises."

If you have any questions about the Scout Christmas Post service, please contact: 1sthalesworth@suffolkscouts.org



You are invited to join with all the churches across the Blyth Valley area to mark Advent Sunday:

Advent Tea & Worship

Sunday 1st December

3pm @ Halesworth URC



Do bring friends

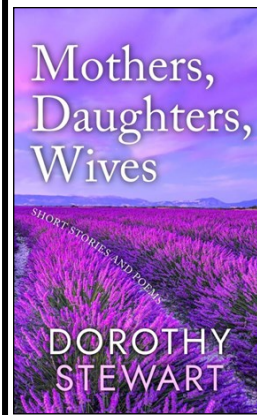
You can bring contributions

(sandwiches/cakes/savoury snacks etc) or just come and enjoy what others have brought



A new Dorothy Stewart book for Christmas!

- short stories to delight and surprise -



Book signing:

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from 10.30am.**

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**e-book £0.99 Kindle,
and free on Kindle Unlimited**

Farewell... but not goodbye!



As most of you will know, I am leaving my role as Blyth Valley Churches' Administrator on 31st December 2024.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped me fulfil the various duties of a church office administrator.

When I left full-time employment, I applied for this job thinking it might be something I would like to do for a couple of years before retiring,

but it has been almost seven years, and I can honestly say, I've thoroughly enjoyed it. Even the "Can you just..." moments!

But, I feel it is the right time to step back and reduce my working hours.

For now, I will be working from home for a few hours a month, producing the artwork for *Blyth Valley Times*.

I shouldn't require access to the office.bvtm@gmail.com email address after I leave, therefore any copy, editorials, and advertisement changes for the magazine should only be sent to the dedicated *BVTimes* email address please:

blyth.valley.times@gmail.com

Any future *Blyth Valley Times* subscription payments or requests, advertisement sales and invoicing, magazine distribution and general enquiries regarding *BVTimes* will need to be directed to the new Administrator please.

Thank you again all for your help, guidance and friendship, I've been so lucky getting to know you all, I will keep in touch - I should now have far more free time to fit in some coffee and cake catch ups! With love...

Carolyn
x



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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**

The Vicarage,
Beccles Road,
Holton, IP19 8NG
Tel: 01986 875541
Mobile: 07572 872512
Email:
rev.giniwilliams@
godsearth.co.uk
(Off duty: Fridays)



**The Revd Canon
Alison Alder
Associate Priest**

Oakhurst,
Blackheath Road
Wenhaston, IP19 9HD
Tel: 01502 478855
Mobile: 07584 416277
Email:
revalialder@gmail.com
(Off duty: Thurs & Fri)



**The Revd
Linda Berry
Assistant Curate**

Old Post Office,
The Street,
Huntingfield,
IP19 0PU
Tel: 01986 798165
Email:
revd.linda@
huntingfield.uk
(Off duty: Mon & Tues)

The Revd Vic Hopkins *Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 875934
Email: csninefour@btinternet.com

The Revd David Sochon *Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 781151
Email: davidsochon@googlemail.com

Fr Jonathan Olanczuk *Associate Priest*
Tel: 01502 470079.
Email: olanczuk@me.com

Fr Desmond Banister *Associate Priest*
Tel: 07702 725825.
Email: ppasnh@gmail.com

READERS

Veronica Mowat
Tel: 07802611410. Email: vmm1151@gmail.com

Jim Green
Tel: 07742032536.
Email: jimpiecrust@phonecoop.coop

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, please telephone 07752 275328 (between 9am - 1pm).
Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

ELDERS

Jason Busby
01986 873336. Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Alison Cackett
01986 874442. Email: acackett@me.com

Veronica Downing
07799 484266.
Email: veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

Malcolm Heath
01986 785289. Email: mlheath@aol.com

Eileen Salmon
07359 438882

Janet Walkey
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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.org.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

Keith Noakes: *Lay Chair BV Parishes Joint Council*

Tel: 07939 527340

Email: keith.noakes@gmail.com

Richard Sheldrake: *Treasurer BV Parishes Joint Council*

Tel: 07584 165678

Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com

Carolyn Clarke: *Administrator Blyth Valley Churches and Clerk to BV Parishes Joint Council*

Tel: 01986 875941 or 07752 275328.

Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

Karen Wynne Evans: *Choir Director Blyth Valley Churches* Tel: 01986 873431

Email: karen.wynne.evans@gmail.com

Jason Busby: *Organist Blyth Valley Churches*

Tel: 01986 873336. Mobile: 07817 863533

Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Philip Gorrod: *Contact for bell ringers across the Blyth Valley Churches*

Tel: 01986 875354

Email: pjg@hnhh.me.uk



PARISH	CHURCHWARDEN	CONTACT
Blyford	Charlie Hawkins	charliehawkins100@gmail.com
Bramfield	Jinnie Barham	01986 784254
Chediston	Jo Wareham	07711 066727
Cookley	Jane Evers	01986 785209
Halesworth	Jason Busby	01986 873336
Heveningham	Jeanette Griffin	01986 798280
Holton	John Hewlett Chris Knevet	01986 875913 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	01986 873173

ECUMENICAL CLERGY

The Revd Martin Keenan

Methodist Minister

8 Corton Road, Lowestoft NR32 4PL. Tel: 01502 560178

Email: martin.keenan@methodist.org.uk

The Revd Jon Sermon

URC Minister, Halesworth & Bramfield URC,

Quay Street, Halesworth IP19 8EP. Tel: 01986 873761

Email: pastorjonsermon@gmail.com

Father Christopher Smith

Roman Catholic Priest

St Edmund King & Martyr Roman Catholic Church,

Halesworth IP19 8SY. Tel: 01502 723207

Email: Christopher.Smith@rcdea.org.uk

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News from Town & Villages



Blyford



Please see pages 3 and 32 of this issue for details December services at Blyford.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas from All Saints, Blyford.

Bramfield

Correspondent Alfred Mullett
snowmein@mac.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.



Harvest Festivals

We had a very successful Harvest Festival service. The Revd David gave the service, with much wisdom and humour. The church was beautifully decorated, and we had much music and joy for the season of harvest. It was a wonderful time of the community coming together.

On the previous Thursday, Bramfield Primary School held their harvest festival in the church. It was a wonderful service by the Revd Linda

and the church was packed to standing room. The rafters rang with the voices of children, staff and parents.

Churchyard Clean-up

We had a successful churchyard clean-up in October and have made some progress in the front of the churchyard adjacent to the pub. We will advertise our next clean-up later via the village email group.

Memorial Sunday

It was lovely to see so many of you come to pay your respects to the lost and fallen from both wars, from this area. Our service was led by Jason Busby and we were pleased to hear his daughter help with the prayers.

Philip Sims played the organ and also played a stirring rendition last post and Reveille on trumpet. Many people joined us at the service.

We also wish to thank Carlos Reynell and his students from Bramfield House School who kindly cleaned our War Memorial before Remembrance Day.



St Andrew's Day

Bramfield St Andrew's will be hosting the joint St Andrew's Day service with St Andrew's Wissett. It is on Saturday 30th November at 6pm. We look forward to seeing all there.

Christmas Carols at St Andrew's

We shall be holding a Carol Service on Sunday 15th December at 3pm, with mince pies and mulled wine. We will be getting in touch with our local businesses to choose a carol. Do let us know if you want to do a reading.

Bramfield and Community

If you are looking for a venue for performances or concerts in a church environment, do get in touch. The acoustics are excellent and it is a good intimate performance space. Also, if you need any help in the community, let us know. We can be reached at: standrewsbramfield@gmail.com or Jinnie Barham, tel 01986 784254.

BRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

11am-2.30pm

TURKEY ROLLS AND MULLED WINE
STALLS

All in aid of Bramfield Village Hall
and the field

Circle 67 at Bramfield Village Hall
Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm

The Flint Street Nativity, by Tim Firth

The action of the play begins as the young pupils of Flint Street Primary School, all played by adults, are about to perform their nativity play for their proud parents. All kinds of mishaps ensue, until the culmination during the final few scenes of the play when the focus shifts and the children become their parents. Described as a comedy about children for adults, this warm and witty play, which is definitely not a traditional nativity, provides a thought-provoking glimpse at the power politics that exist in a class of 7-year olds. The play is a great alternative for adults to the usual Christmas fare, with new lyrics set to the tunes of old Christmas carols.

Warning: The play contains adult themes and some playground language that may amuse and possibly offend teachers and parents.

Tickets (£10) from www.circle67.co.uk also Bramfield Garage, or on the door.

Chediston

Correspondent Veronica Downing
veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

From this month, and after many years, Sally Aldous has now retired as our correspondent for the *BVTimes*. We all thank her for her devotion to keeping the Benefice and BVChurches informed of Chediston's news.

Sally also organised the annual collection of *BVTimes* subscriptions and the delivery of the magazine in the village every month, and we are indebted to her. Along with two others, Sally has personally delivered the *BVTimes* door-to-door, despite her increasing mobility difficulties.

Are there any people in the village who could deliver a few copies of *BVTimes* each month please? If we have a team of distributors to cover Chediston and Chediston Green, that would be an ideal solution.

On the subject of subscriptions, both Sally and the Team Administrator, Carolyn Clarke, have pointed out that there are quite a few "subscribers" who have not paid their 2024/25 subscriptions, these were due for payment in April 2024. For an annual figure of £12, this is a very inexpensive way of keeping in touch with local news, and having contact numbers of local services readily to hand.

Another person who deserves a mention and our good wishes as she moves to Australia to be with her family, is Anne Greenough. Anne lived at Paradise Farm for a number of years with her husband, Graham, until his recent death. We thank her for her active contribution to our village church and her time on the PCC (Parochial Church Council). Her friendly presence and kindness will be missed.

CHEDISTON CHURCH ORGAN

How good to see the refurbished Copeman Hart organ back in Chediston church. It's an interesting and somewhat lucky story as to how it came to Chediston sometime around the early to mid nineties.

Chediston residents, Jane and the late Tony Parsons, living close to the church, heard that the PCC was looking to replace the existing instrument.

Tony, a brilliant musician as Principal Trombone of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and professor of trombone and Jane, who also worked at the London College of music, discovered

that the practise organ in the building was about to be scrapped.

Jane, who had already spoken to the Chairman of the College Corporation, contacted me and explained the situation. Jane said the organ was available for a nominal sum, believed to be £250, but it had to be shifted promptly. I couldn't believe our luck, but obviously I was unable to make a decision without approval from other PCC members. There was also the problem of transport. I frantically contacted as many councillors as I could and was eventually satisfied that I had the backing of everyone. By this time, there were barely twenty four hours left to the deadline and I hadn't a clue as to how to move the organ from central London to rural Suffolk.

I rang Tony in desperation and he came up trumps. He would hire a truck, collect a small party of students to help load and unload and make the delivery, all for the princely sum of £50. I gathered two or three strong volunteers to meet at the war memorial at the appropriate time to manhandle the organ up the path, over a few steps and down the aisle. There it stayed until being carted off for its considerable repairs some months ago. To try and name all the organists who played for services during the intervening years would be futile, but the late Ray Giles was one of the early users. Prior to its timely rescue, the most famous musician to use it was Dr W S Lloyd Webber, father of Julian and Andrew. It was his practise organ as the Director of the college. It was the quick-thinking of Jane and Tony at that time which enabled the organ to be where it is now and hopefully will be enjoyed by many as time goes on.

John Parson

(With thanks to Jane for her help)

Chediston observed Remembrance Sunday with the Act of Remembrance, the laying of a wreath for the fallen in both wars and crosses for individual servicemen, and two minute silence at the War Memorial. This was followed by a Service of Remembrance led by Veronica Downing (Church Elder). It was good to see about 26 village people taking part in this.

The Chediston Christmas Fayre is being held on the afternoon of November 30th in the School Room, with lots of stalls, a festive hamper to

win, refreshments and a visit by Father Christmas. Thank you to Paula Hall for organising this.

Another event coming up in December is a Christmas Tree Party on December 21st at 5.30pm in the church, with fizz and nibbles. A very sociable village occasion last year.

On Christmas Eve at 6.45pm, we have the very traditional candlelit Chediston Christmas Carol Service, with seasonal refreshments beforehand and the playing of the merry organ by organist David Bunkell from Bungay.

On Wednesday 18th December at 12.30pm, the last in this year's series of Lunchtime Recitals, takes place at St Mary's Halesworth, with local singers, Veronica Downing (soprano) and Wendy Slaney (mezzo-soprano) singing a Christmas stocking of popular show songs and arias. The retiring collection is for the restoration work of St Mary's Halesworth.

Cookley

St Michael & All Angels Church, Cookley

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

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



Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
 01986 873336

halesworthparish@gmail.com

We say it all the time don't we? "Where has the year gone" at the time of writing it is just 37 days before we sing *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning* – which, incidentally, is my most favourite Christmas carol and descant! To of course, yes, you guessed it... *O come all ye faithful*. But before all that frivolity and joyful noise we have four weeks of advent to get through! Please ensure you have all the key dates in your diary for December! I'm not going to repeat them here but do

check the 'What's On' and services listed on page 3 and the back page and see the posters in church. *May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.*

The biggest surprise this past month has been the County Council resurfacing and widening the footpaths around St Mary's. How smart do these look? Now, if the pigeons nesting in the north clockface would relocate, then we can turn the clock back on, and all will be well.

On November 3rd at the Team Service, Dominic introduced our new 'youth and families' worker Pauline, who is funded by Central Church. Pauline has been working very hard with Gini and launching new groups based in St Mary's, including the Monday night youth group and relaunching what used to be called 'Church Mice'. You can catch up with the conversation via YouTube - www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish

The Town Remembrance Service was by far the best post-Covid turn out of organisations and community. There was standing room only in St Mary's (see photo below).

The All-Souls service, where we remembered our loved ones departed, was also well supported.

We have another opportunity coming up on Friday 13th December, 6pm, when Rosedale Funeral Home invite everyone to attend a Christmas Service of Remembrance.

HALESWORTH WI

Our speaker Helen Hayes updated us on her "Music for Well-being". How classes have expanded to include music for festivals, high schools and Swell Music at the Seagull Theatre. Helen realised how much music matters to

everyone, it has also been proved that singing benefits the autistic, asthma sufferers and, following Covid, helps those with breathing and lung problems. She takes classes for dementia, stroke and Parkinson groups at Holton & Blyford Village Hall, where they, their partners and carers can join in and enjoy the stimulation of singing and playing musical instruments together. Helen is online once a fortnight with "Lift your lungs" choir, this started up in the Covid pandemic and has proved very popular with participants from far and wide. We then took part in some breathing exercises, before joining in a sing-song accompanied with a variety of small musical instruments. We all agreed singing is good for your health and finished feeling energised. **BP**

**St Mary's Church,
Halesworth**

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

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




Heveningham

Correspondent

Jeanette Griffin 01986 798280
stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com

It's hard to believe that we are almost into December. Preparations are now underway for our Festive events and services.

The thought of Christmas may fill you with dread or joy. Some may love the thought of shopping for presents, while others may worry about the cost, time, preparations. I think it's fair to remember that some of the best gifts we can give are free. Our time, love and compassion don't cost anything but make a real difference to those around us.

Being a Churchwarden, I have found just how compassionate people can be within the church. Whatever church you may go to, there is always a warm welcome and support for those who may be alone, or just need a bit extra at this time of year.

We have two events coming up, offering a chance to buy some cost-effective presents, perfect for spending pocket money, so bring your family. Refreshments will be available, so you can shop whilst also enjoying a chat and a warm drink, obviously cake will be involved, too.

Nov 23rd 10.30am Coffee Morning and Christmas table sale.

Dec 7th 10.30am Christmas Craft Market.

We have two services in December. Our Candlelight Carol Service and Midnight Mass, plus refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies.

Dec 8th 4pm Candlelight Carol Service, please bring a candle with you.

Dec 24th 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Looking towards the new year, our coffee mornings will resume in March, but we will be having a couple of informal meetings in January to discuss forthcoming events. If you would like to be involved in these, please do get in touch.

Our church remains open daily, we look forward to welcoming you.



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

Temporary Correspondent Jackie Watts



Your participation in Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride, or your support in keeping your church open and the generosity of your sponsors, is much appreciated.

The funds raised make a massive contribution to the preservation and future of the churches and chapels of Suffolk. Holton raised £ 215. Thank you. (Received from Simon Ronan Chairman, Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride).

Harvest

The church was beautifully decorated, enhanced with pictures made by the children from Holton school. A Thanksgiving Service was led by Veronica, followed by lunch in St Peter's Room. All donations were taken to Waveney Foodbank. The school celebrations were held in church the next day.

Bible Sunday

I would love to hear Gini's sermon again! Based on Paul's teaching to Timothy. The fact that today the Bible is so diversly read by people from different social and ethnic backgrounds, was great to hear. After her sermon we were all invited to say the "Massai Creed". We welcomed Jonathan and his family from Leeds, who were staying at New Chapel Farm (the Christian Retreat at Mells). Jonathan works for Wycliffe Translators of the Bible. This year is the 700th Anniversary of John Wycliffe's birth. He was the first person to translate the Bible from Latin into English. Around the world today,

modern day John Wycliffe's are working so their people have God's word in their own language. privilege to have Jonathan and his family worshipping with us on Bible Sunday.

Remembrance Sunday

The Revd Bill Mahood took the service, he told us a lovely story of when he went to a church in Mississippi and gave them a mug with the American and British Flags on it. These were the flags that stand on either side of the memorial plaque in St Peter's. The mug is a connection between us and is kept in a special place in their church.

The service was full of messages of friendship and peace to our troubled world of today. The church was full. We were joined by many American servicemen and women with their families.

Afterwards, we walked up to the American War Memorial on the old WWII Airfield, reciting the names of all who died in this conflict.

Funeral

The funeral of Frances Quinton took place on November 6th at St Peter's.

Dates for December

Monday 2nd: Labyrinth/time for reflection. 2pm-4pm. Thursday 12th: Dot's Coffee Morning in aid of The Pear Tree Fund, 10am at the Village Hall. Please refer to the pages in this issue for details of all the Service times across Blyth Valley Churches.

Peace and Joy to you all at Christmas!

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 month we start the article with a series of 'Thank you's'.

Firstly a big thank you to all who came to the launch of our Church podcast. The podcast, which is an informal guide to St Mary the Virgin church, was produced by Tony Morelli and narrated by Catriona Chase from Cookley. Our thanks to both of them for a very professional product and one which can be enjoyed either during your visit to the church, or from the comfort of your own armchair. To listen, search 'St Mary the Virgin, Huntingfield podcast' on your usual provider and enjoy.

As part of the launch afternoon, we were delighted to welcome St Mary's Halesworth Handbell Ringing team. They entertained us with a selection of beautiful melodies and invited people up to 'give it a go'. The general consensus was 'It's a lot harder than it looks'. The team perform at events, concerts and special occasions.

Over 40 people gathered around the village war memorial on Remembrance Sunday to pay their respects. Alison Cackett led the service, which was both thought-provoking and emotional. Our thanks to Alison and also to Rose Thompson who read the names of our 'fallen'. Rose has been reading the names for us since the age of seven. This year she was struck by the realisation of the soldiers' ages, remarking 'Gosh, they were only a few years older than me when killed in action'.

On November 14th, we sadly had to say goodbye to Jeff Boocock, as he was laid to rest in the churchyard. Jeff was a good friend to the church and, although not a resident of Huntingfield, he made many friends in the village. As a church we are thankful for the numerous hours he spent working in the churchyard, keeping it tidy, mown and strimmed. He looked forward to his weekly sessions of 'tidying' and enjoyed the long coffee breaks in the church porch with others, putting the world to rights. Just a few weeks ago, Jeff managed to get himself to Holy Communion and, although weak, it gave him great strength. Jeff you will be missed.

A past resident of the village, Audrey Hanslip, has recently passed away, aged 94. Audrey lived in Huntingfield for many years and worked tirelessly for the good of the church. She was a member of the PCC, church choir, fundraiser, musician and organised the annual Art Exhibition in the church, raising large sums for church funds. We will be forever grateful to Audrey for

her energy, enthusiasm, wit and love of life.

Our Candlelit Carol Service will be held on Saturday 21st December at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

And finally... one last thank you, to Carolyn as she steps down from her role as Administrator. Thank you for being patient with me when I forget the deadlines, can't find the relevant form or request numerous pieces of photocopying at the last minute. Carolyn, you are a star!

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

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES. This time last year, it was raining so hard that our road was flooded. We could get through with care. However the Demon of Road Closures has found a better wheeze, called 'Renewing Water Mains'. The beauty of this is they can do the road closures in fits and starts move signposts around and generally extract as much mayhem as they wish.

At the time of writing, the B1123 by us is closed in both directions and it was interesting, as a spectator sport to see a very, very long artic manoeuvre through the forest of cones, as if in some sort of HGV driving competition.

ONE OF THE MOST SINGULAR aspects of Christmas is that however much it is misappropriated, misused or simply misunderstood, it never loses its magic. For us, Christmas starts here. So please come and join us for:

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The annual service of
carols & readings

will be held on
Sunday 22nd December
at 3pm.

This is an event for the whole family so please do join us.

There will be seasonal refreshments afterwards

And don't forget to bring a candle and candle-holder!

SINCE AT THE TIME OF WRITING, A series of trenches, worthy of the World War I, are being dug right outside the church, it might be a good idea to leave a little bit of extra time!

Notwithstanding, a Santa outfit arrived for me today. It is for a family party and I suppose that it is a sign of the times that playing Father Christmas is falling to me.

CHEDISTON & Linstead WI HELD their AGM in November and the committee has arranged the programme for 2025. After the AGM, WI member, Irene Thomas talked about her experiences of 70 years in education. She started by telling members of her own experiences as a schoolgirl and then she told about her time as a teacher, finally ending as a headmistress. After retiring, she volunteered to assist in local schools. THE ONLY SERVICE IN DECEMBER will be our service of Carols by Candlelight. IT ONLY LEAVES ME NOW TO WISH the whole parish a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Spexhall

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

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them' It was very good to see a number of parishioners and friends gather at the war memorial in the church to remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars, and in other conflicts since. We also gave thought

to all those who have died, or been injured, because of war and conflict, and we pledged ourselves to work for peace. Our thanks to Betty Everson who donated the poppy wreath as a sign of our remembrance from the congregation at St Peter's, and the village of Spexhall.

'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

You may get December's *BVTimes* before Advent Sunday, if you do, then don't forget the Advent Carol Concert 'Adventus', in St Peter's on Sunday 1st December from 3pm. Wonderful Advent carols and seasonal songs. The perfect way to begin Advent and look forward to Christmas. Drinks sold in the interval. £5 on the door.

Email: spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com to reserve seats.

'This is the month, and this the happy morn,

Wherein the Son of Heav'n's eternal King,

Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born'

Woodpecker has learned that John Milton was best known for his blank verse, but the lines above from, 'On the Morning of Christ's Nativity', certainly do rhyme! Celebrate a rhyming festive season with us.

St Peter's Church, Spexhall

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

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



Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 8th December, 3pm

Do join us in this 'preview' of Christmas! Refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards.

'It came upon a midnight clear,
that glorious song of old'

Celebrate the beginning of the Christmas feast at St Peter's. This year we host Midnight Mass (Holy Communion) for the villages of Spexhall and Wissett, and all our friends, at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. Those who

prefer a **Christmas Morning Service** are invited to **St Andrew's Wissett at 10am**. There might even be a Christmas drink afterwards to 'salute the happy morn'!

Village Hall

Woodpecker wrote this column before the Village Hall Quiz on November 29th, but I am sure it was a good occasion!

Woodpecker would like to wish all in Spexhall, readers of the *BVTimes*, and all their family and friends, a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Thorington

Correspondent

Trish Gower 01502 478078
trish@coastal1.plus.com

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.



We are in a quiet time here at Thorington PCC but everyone is warmly invited to the Carol Service at the new time of 4pm on Christmas Eve. There will be mulled wine and mince pies, so please come along a few minutes early, and bring a torch to help find your way back to your cars! As the season approaches, we wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Walpole

Correspondents

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

On October 27th, we celebrated our Harvest Festival. The occasion was well attended and very much community-based with local children and young people reading prayers, and an interesting talk on the harvest and challenges of farming given by Walpole farmer, Mike Porter.

Special thanks to the Two Magpies Bakery who donated a wonderful wheatsheaf loaf for the occasion and to all who donated produce. The offerings were subsequently taken to the Community Larder.



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.



Our Remembrance Day Service was also well attended and we would like to thank the Revd Vic for leading the Service and Walpole parishioner Lt Col Mark Wenham for reading out the names of the fallen, the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph. A special thank you to Sapper Jake Robinson - 35 Engineer Regt (EOD&S), for laying the wreath below the war memorial plaque in the Chancel. We must also thank Sue McCrone for stepping in and playing the organ so beautifully. On Saturday 7th December, we will be holding our annual Wreath Making workshop - numbers are limited so please book your place early if you are interested (tel Jane on 07540 777845). Our final service of the year will be the family Crib/Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 3pm, followed by mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. All are welcome to join us.

Finally, we would like to thank Dominic, Gini, Carolyn and the Team for their continued support throughout the year and we wish you all a very joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

margaret@wrush.plus.com

The Two St Peter's Quiz was well attended and raised £486, to be shared between the two churches. A huge thank you to Phil and Denise for putting this on for us. Amazingly, the church team came first! Thank you to all who supported us.

Every year St Peter's Church PCC donates 5% of the unrestrictable income to charity and this year we have supported St Elizabeth Hospice, RNLI and DEC Gaza.

The church is running a tombola at the Christmas Bazaar and we would be grateful for any small gifts for this.

We invite everyone to our **Christmas Carol Service on Friday 20th December at 7pm**. There will be mince pies and mulled wine to warm you after the service. On **Christmas Eve** we have **Holy Communion at 7pm**, all welcome. It just remains for me to wish you all a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and to thank everyone who has supported St Peter's throughout the year.

December Services at 10am, unless stated otherwise.

- 1st: Team Service Halesworth.
- 8th: Ecumenical Service at Methodist Church, 10.30am.
- 15th: Holy Communion.
- 20th: Carol Service, 7pm.
- 22nd: Holy Communion
- 24th: Christmas Communion, 7pm
- 29th: Holy Communion, St Mary's Halesworth

WENHASTON M U

Our Coffee and Cakes on November 5th was very successful and we are extremely grateful for the £300.56 which the event raised. Our customers seemed to enjoy just coming and having a chat with friends and neighbours. All the members helped, baked and donated very generously and, again, I am very grateful.

From the money raised, the members have decided that £100 will be sent to Mothers' Union Christmas Appeal which is raising funds for the work of MU abroad, especially in Africa.

Our November meeting was a discussion and Moira, our member, had produced some excellent topics for discussion ranging from Christmas is not like it used to be; how can we change things?; to - our churches are declining, how can we interest families and children? A very interesting and entertaining afternoon!

December meeting is our Christmas party at Spindleberry at 3pm, when we shall be singing carols with readings and of course, enjoying our Christmas tea!

We wish all our readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. **Margaret G**

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

Just the one walk in December, led by Gail, which will leave The Five Bells, Southwold Road, Wrentham NR34 7JF at 10am on Tuesday 3rd December, returning around midday for lunch at 12.30pm. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email: ipbigwood@btinternet.com

May I take this opportunity to thank all those supporting these walks, especially walk leaders, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! **Heather Phillips (01502 478545)**

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

Our meeting on November 5th was a workshop with Jenni Baker and we would like to thank her very much for guiding us through the steps to produce a wonderful Christmas arrangement. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and although all the arrangements were individual, they were all stunning.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd December in Wenhaston Village Hall, 7.30pm This will be our Christmas party which includes a demonstration by

Roger. We are extremely fortunate that Roger has agreed to demonstrate for us as it could possibly be one of his last demonstrations.

For the party, can you please bring a sharing plate of food (sweet or savoury) and a secret Santa present costing no more than £5. The Flower Club will provide the drinks.

We have a busy programme throughout the year, so our Christmas party is one of the few times that we can relax, watch Roger's demonstration, chat with friends and eat delicious food and we are all looking forward to it.

The Flower Club would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery on 01502 478401.



Jenni with her Christmas Arrangement.

Wissett

Correspondent **Mary Pester**
01986 835869

marypester@rocketmail.com

November, so far, has been mild with no frost to hamper bulb planting. The sun sets not long after 4pm and it is dark by 5pm, so I am locking the church a little earlier. I always call out "I'm locking the church!" as I go in with my faithful feline companion, so no-one will be locked in.

Our All Souls Evening saw the church looking beautiful in candlelight. Those who came to remember loved ones, said how much they appreciated the

church being open for this and many stayed for sweet wine and a Soul cake.

Our WWI figures are once again in place around the churchyard and village field, white against the golden autumn leaves. The Remembrance Service was well attended and we were fortunate in having Barnaby Lambert, who is serving in the Marines, to read out the names of the fallen. Young and in uniform, as they would have been, those young men from Wissett, it was very poignant.

We look forward to our shared patronal service this year at 6pm at St Andrew's Bramfield on November 30th.

And then... The Advent bells call out 'Prepare!'. Much to prepare and get ready as John Betjeman reminds us in his poem *Christmas*.

Mincepies and mulled wine making, picking the evergreens, getting out the candles from the shed, getting all ready for... the Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December, 6.30pm.

Our Crib Service on Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December - is at 4pm.

Our Christmas Day service is at 10am.

"And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?

The Maker of the stars and sea
Became a Child on earth for me?"

Thank you to all who help all year to keep our church clean, decorated and welcoming.

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.



FOSM RECITALS REVIEW

On Wednesday 13th November we welcomed back to St Mary's the Handbell Ringers. A varied programme which included *Rule Britannia*, *Aura Lee* (or known as *Love me Tender* by Elvis), *Te Deum* by Charpentier, which was originally composed around 1688.

Following the programme of music rung on the American handbells which had such a beautiful tone, the audience were invited up to come and look at the bells. This also included the set which the team originally rang dating back to the late 1800's, as pictured by the old boys outside the north porch in the photo hanging up in the tower! The audience had tremendous fun getting involved and even having a go at ringing *Away in a Manger*. The Handbell team are already booked into the December slot for 2025! A BIG THANK YOU to Linda and the Team.

But if that wasn't enough, two days later on Friday 17th November, St Mary's held a first... a Silent Movie Night. The film was the 1923 version of the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, with our ancient organ being played by local organist extraordinaire, Mr Tom Horton. 45 people attended and everyone had a very enjoyable evening. The organ was thankfully on good form (having been tuned by Boggis Organ builders the previous day). Tom's skills made the musical setting seem effortless, dramatic, almost to the point you felt you were in the movie! Discussions are already underway into a Silent Film in 2025 perhaps the *Phantom of the Opera*?! THANK YOU to FoSM (Friends of St Mary's) Carol, Sarah, Gwen and Simon for preparing and serving the bar; to Halesworth Probus for loaning their projector and to Mike Bostock-Smith for his time in setting/dismantling the projector and screen and of course a HUGE thank you to Tom Horton.

We conclude the 2024 Recital Series on Wednesday 18th December, when we welcome back local Sopranos Veronica Downing and Wendy Slaney with Jonathan Rutherford, for a

programme of music entitled *A Christmas Stocking of Show Songs and Arias*. JB

Friends of St Mary's - Halesworth
Arms of The Argentines • Mediaeval Benefactors

2024 LUNCHTIME RECITAL SERIES
10th Anniversary Season

**WEDNESDAY 18TH
DECEMBER 12.30pm**

***A Christmas Stocking of Show
Songs and Arias***

**Veronica Downing - Soprano
Wendy Slaney - Mezzo Soprano
Jonathan Rutherford - Piano**

Light refreshments served from 12noon or bring your own picnic lunch

Free admission with retiring collection for the Regeneration of St. Mary's Church
Contactless giving available

**Halesworth Town
Carol Service**

**Friday
20th
December**

**St Mary's
Church
7.00pm**

**Sing the Carols • Hear the Story
All are Welcome**

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Christmas Carols

**Saturday 14th December
2024 - 7th January 2025**

Decorate a tree with a carol of your choice. Bring to St Mary's Church on Friday 13th December.

For more details email Jo on:
joannathackray5@gmail.com



"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Or, as *The Message* puts it "There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth." – which is my way of announcing that after 35 years -

The Sign of the Fish Christian Bookshop

is closing, a unanimous decision of the Trustees.

We will close at the end of the year, but before that there is the **Grand Closing Down Sale*** so plenty of time to purchase economical Christmas gifts and stock up on birthday cards (and cards for nearly every other occasion).

Over 35 years we have been supported by a small army of volunteer staff – hearty thanks and God bless you – but age and infirmity has taken its toll. "Niche" shops are always vulnerable to changing habits and challenges, and Covid was the end of many, we can only thank God we could continue for a couple more years.

**Sign of The Fish Grand Closing Down Sale
50% off**

All December, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

* Christmas cards, which are new stock, not included in Sale

Val Jennings

For Sign of the Fish for the last time



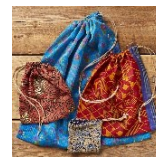
Are you looking forward to Christmas?

If Christ comes at Christmas for all life, can we use Advent to reflect on how our actions are contributing to the well-being of all life on Earth? Can we think of ways we can be more considerate in caring for God's creation?

With all this in mind I had a look for eco-friendly tips for a green Christmas:



Did you know it's possible to rent a Christmas tree? It goes back afterwards and is replanted in the ground. Whether renting or buying a real tree make sure it's grown sustainably by looking for either the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Soil Association logo. Or go alternative and use a large branch of holly, or a large perennial indoor plant like a yucca or palm, and decorate it like you would a Christmas tree. If you have a fake tree already then keep on using it as long as possible. If you light up your tree with fairy lights then LEDs use up to 80% less energy than traditional incandescent lights.



Instead of using wrapping paper, much of which has plastic within it, use a scarf to wrap that special present/



Buy recycled, or look for the FSC mark on Christmas cards to guarantee the paper has been produced sustainably and ethically. The Woodland Trust sells cards with also support Britain's woodlands.



Food waste is a huge problem. It's so easy to over-cater at Christmas. Plan to transform left overs into new meals. Freeze what you can't eat. Or donate to a local charity feeding those in need. And compost what is still left.



Almost everything we buy has a carbon footprint and much of it is packaged in un-recyclable plastic. Put simply – by buying less and buying more sustainably, we can reduce the rate at which natural resources are used up and the earth is polluted. Let's rejoice and take delight in God's free gift to us – God incarnate, a baby born in a manger.

Barbara Echlin

Green Tips for Christmas

by Barbara Echlin – Green Christian

Youth Space at St Mary's

Every Monday from 6:30-8:30 pm, different food and drinks every week, for example:



Activities like!



Your Space

Contact Pauline 07780459285

Circle **67**

the FLint StReeT NaTiviTY

The Flint Street Nativity, by Tim Firth (who is probably best known for writing Calendar Girls), was originally a TV comedy produced for Yorkshire Television that aired during Christmas 1999. Tim rewrote the play and added music for a production at the Liverpool Playhouse in 2006, where it ran for two successive seasons to much critical acclaim, breaking box office records to become the theatre's most successful Christmas show ever.

The action of the play begins as the young pupils of Flint Street Primary School, all played by adults, are about to perform their nativity play for their proud parents. All kinds of mishaps ensue, until the culmination during the final few scenes of the play when the focus shifts and the children become their parents!

Described as a comedy about children for adults, this warm

and witty play, which is definitely not a traditional nativity, provides a thought-provoking glimpse at the power politics that exist in a class of 7-year-olds. The play is a great alternative for adults to the usual Christmas fare, with new lyrics set to the tunes of old Christmas carols.

Circle 67 will be touring The Flint Street Nativity to local venues from December 17th to 20th, including The Cut in Halesworth. Please see our advertisement (below) and our website for further details.

Warning: The play contains adult themes and some playground language that may amuse and possibly offend teachers and parents.

Open Space Theatre presents
The Deep Blue Sea
 by Terence Rattigan

Hester Collyer has to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea in the latest production by the locally based Open Space Theatre Company.

The Deep Blue Sea, by Terence Rattigan, is to visit seven venues, including Halesworth and Southwold between November 27th (7.30pm Southwold) and December 7th (7.30pm Halesworth). All tickets £12 and booking is now open.

For more information look at:
www.openspacetheatre.org.uk
 or telephone 01986 872481

Circle **67**

the **FLint StReeT NaTiviTY**
 by Tim Firth

A comedy about children for adults

Bramfield Village Hall	Tue 17 December
Huntingfield: The Hub	Wed 18 December
Walberswick Village Hall	Thur 19 December
Halesworth: The Cut	Fri 20 December

Performances start at 7.30pm

Tickets: Village halls, £10 in advance & on the door.
 The Cut, £12 in advance or £14 on the door.
 Available from our website & venue box offices

Circle67.co.uk

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St Peter's Spexhall


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a capella Advent Carols and Seasonal Songs to Cheer and Inspire




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CONDUCTOR: VETTA WISE
 Sunday 1st December at 3pm
 £5 Entry (pay on the door)
ALL Proceeds to St Peter's Spexhall
Seasonal Refreshments
 Tickets: spexhallwoodpecker@gmail.com or 07939527340

Walking the Labyrinth – A Time for Reflection



Monday 2nd December 2024
St Peter's Church, Holton
Theme for reflective craft: Sparkle



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:
There will be no meeting in January 2025
Monday 3rd February 2025

DOT'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 12th December, 10am
HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL
In aid of the Pear Tree Fund
All welcome!



BRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER
11am-2.30pm
TURKEY ROLLS AND MULLED WINE STALLS
All in aid of Bramfield Village Hall and the field



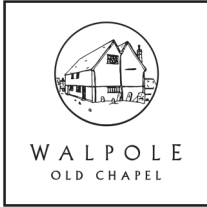
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Musical Spectacular
7.30pm Holton Village Hall

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Saturday 16th December, 3pm
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+ mince pies and mulled apple juice
 A traditional service, enjoyed by many people
 over many years.



All welcome.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HALESWORTH

7TH DECEMBER 3-5PM



**Church
Mince
Tots Group**

St Mary's Church, Halesworth
 Thursday's 11:30 am - 1 pm
 Term-Time

Prayer Group
 Children, Families and Young People
 28th November 9:30-10:30 am

**Remembering those
we love at Christmas**

A Service of Remembrance
 at **ST MARY'S CHURCH,
HALESWORTH, IP19 8LL**
 on
FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2024
 at 6.00 pm

★ Refreshments will be available ★
 ★ Rosedale Christmas Memorial Tree ★

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 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
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Services across the Blyth Valley Churches during the Christmas season

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 8th December	St Peter Spexhall	3pm	Carol Service
Sunday 8th December	St Margaret Heveningham	4pm	Carol Service
Thursday 12th December	All Saints Blyford	5.30pm	December Prayers followed by carols at The Queen's Head, Blyford
Friday 13th December	St Mary Halesworth	6pm	Rosedale's Service of Remembrance
Sunday 15th December	St Andrew Bramfield	3pm	Carol Service
Thursday 19th December	St Mary Halesworth	2pm	All Access Carols
Friday 20th December	St Mary Halesworth	7pm	Town Carol Service
Friday 20th December	St Peter Wenhaston	7pm	Carol Service
Saturday 21st December	St Mary Huntingfield	2pm	Carol Service
Saturday 21st December	St Mary Walpole	4pm	Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December	St Margaret Linstead	3pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 22nd December	St Peter Holton	6pm	Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December	St Andrew Wissett	6.30pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th December	St Mary Walpole	3pm	Crib Service
Tuesday 24th December	St Peter Holton	4pm	Crib/Christingle Service
Tuesday 24th December	St Andrew Wissett	4pm	Crib Service
Tuesday 24th December	St Mary Halesworth	4.30pm	Christingle
Tuesday 24th December	St Peter Holton	5pm	Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th December	St Peter Thorington	6.30pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th December	St Mary Chediston	6.45pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th December	St Peter Wenhaston	7pm	Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th December	St Mary Halesworth	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Tuesday 24th December	St Margaret Heveningham	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Tuesday 24th December	St Peter Spexhall	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th December	St Mary Halesworth	10am	Family Communion
Wednesday 25th December	St Andrew Wissett	10am	Holy Communion
Monday 6th January 2025	St Andrew Wissett	6pm	Epiphany Service