

# Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

January 2018

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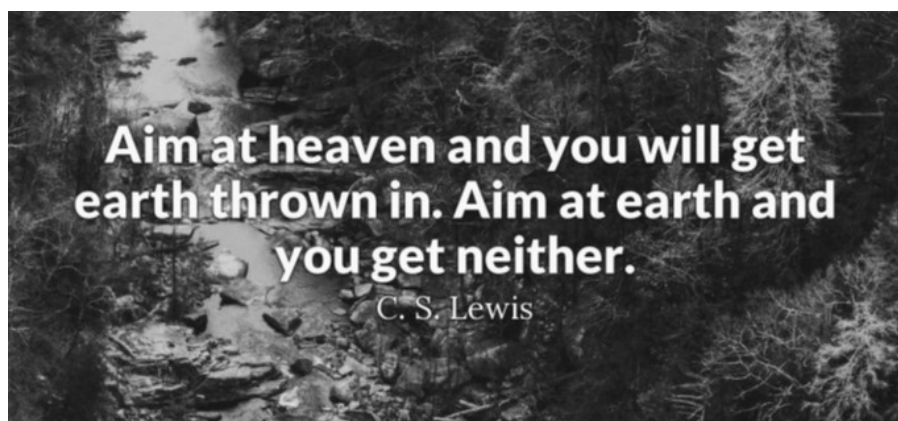
This is an image of the Roman god, Janus - from which we may get 'January'. Janus had two faces, one looking to the past, one to the future. He stood at the turn of the year. He was god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages and endings.

Humankind lives in the **present moment** in the light of the **past** and looking to the **future**.

Our God embraces all of them, but we encounter him in the eternal '**now**'.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

C S Lewis is always a good read, remembering he was a man of his time. Try "The Narnia Chronicles" beginning with "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" or "Mere Christianity" or "The Great Divorce" or "The Screwtape Letters". There's also the "Sci-Fi" Trilogy, beginning with "Voyage to Venus"



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To subscribe (through your door) please ring 01986 875941 or email [teamoffice@bvtm.org.uk](mailto:teamoffice@bvtm.org.uk)  
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**[blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://blythvalleychurches.org.uk) - and find us on Facebook**



## Team Calendar for January

Wed 3	10:00	Eucharist and Foodbank - St Mary's, Halesworth (Church Mice starts next week)
Fri 5	12:00	Pop-In Parlour at St Peter's Holton - a nice lunch!
Sat 6	18:30	Team Epiphany Service at St Andrew's, Wissett
Tue 9	14:30	Dhediston & Linstead WI in the Village Hall
Sat 12	12:00	Blyth Valley Times Copy Deadline
Wed 10	19:30	Team Choir Practice (and most Wednesdays)
Tue 16	10:30	Wider Team Meeting - St Peter's Room, Holton
Thu 18	14:00	Halesworth Mothers' Union in the Church Hall
	19:30	Wissett PCC
Tue 23	19:30	Chediston PCC
Wed 24	19:15	Halesworth PCC
Fri 26	19:00	Halesworth Burns Night

### FEBRUARY

Thu 1	19:30	Holton PCC
Tue 13	19:00	Shrove Tuesday Clipping at St Andrew's, Wissett

## Team Worship - Better Together

**Sunday 31 December CHRISTMAS 1**  
**10:30 TEAM EUCHARIST at Halesworth**  
**Celebrant & Preacher: LIZ CANNON**

**Saturday 6 January EPIPHANY**  
**18:30 SERVICE OF LIGHT for EPIPHANY**  
**at St Andrew's. Wissett followed by refreshments**

**Sunday 14 January PLOUGH SUNDAY**  
**15:30 PLOUGH SUNDAY SERVICE at**  
**St Peter's, Spexhall**

**Sunday 4 February (2nd before Lent)**  
**09:30 TEAM EUCHARIST at Halesworth**

**Sunday 11 February (Next before Lent)**  
**15:30 TEAM EVENSONG at**  
**St Peter's, Holton**

## A Selection of Team Times Pages

<b>Pages 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Blyth Valley Worship</b>
<b>Page 5</b>	<b>New Year, New You?</b> <b>-Edward Rennard</b>
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<b>Page 32</b>	<b>2018 Calendar</b>

## Sunday Readings

<b>7 January Epiphany</b> Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.[1-9]10-15 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	<b>28 January Candlemas</b> Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.[1-6]7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40
<b>14 January Epiphany 2</b> 1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20] Psalm 139.1-5,12-18 Revelation 5.1-10 John 1.43-51	<b>4 February 2nd before Lent</b> Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Psalm 104.26-37 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14
<b>21 January Epiphany 3</b> Genesis 14.17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19.6-10 John 2.1-11	<b>11 February Next before Lent</b> 2 Kings 2.1-12 Psalm 50.1-6 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9

## Weekday Services & Related Events

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

10:00 Eucharist at Halesworth then  
 10:30 Church Café in Church for all - including those just passing!  
 10:30 Food Bank  
 10.45 Church Mice for parents & pre-school children - all-age outside term-time ALL WELCOME

### FIRST WEDNESDAY ONLY

10:30 WELLBEING DROP-IN, St Mary's Halesworth  
 (An initial stopping off point for those feeling low)

### EVERY THURSDAY except 1st

09:00 Morning Prayer at Bramfield

### FIRST THURSDAY ONLY

09:00 Eucharist at Bramfield

### EVERY FRIDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer at St Peter's, Holton.  
 09:30 Eucharist at St Peter's, Holton  
 on major Saints' and Holy Days only

*All our weekday services are Team services, and everyone across the Team and beyond is most welcome to attend. This goes for Sundays too.*

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 19 FOR CONTACT DETAILS**

## Sunday Worship in the Blyth Valley in January

Year B TRACK 2	7 January Epiphany 1 TEAM White	14 January Epiphany 2  White	21 January Epiphany 3  White	28 January Candlemas  White	4 February 2 before Lent TEAM Green
BLYFORD ALL SAINTS	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	09:30 to Wenhaston	09:30 Eucharist Edward	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
BRAMFIELD ST ANDREW	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11:15 Eucharist CW Jan 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	11:15 Morning Prayer BCP Malcolm W	11:15 Eucharist BCP Malcolm W	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
CHEDISTON ST MARY	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09:30 Morning Worship Win 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	09:30 Morning Worship (with Linstead) Morgan	09:30 Eucharist Vic	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HALESWORTH ST MARY	08.00 Eucharist David 09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth C Edward P. Diana D Linda B	08.00 Eucharist Edward 10.00 Late Breakfast Church (all age) Jane 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	08.00 Eucharist Jan 09:30 Parish Eucharist Edward	08.00 Eucharist David 09:30 Parish Eucharist Jan	08.00 Eucharist Edward 09:30 Team Eucharist C Jan, P Edward D Morgan
HOLTON ST PETER	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11:15 Parish Eucharist Edward 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	11:15 Iona Morning Worship (all age) John H	11:15 Parish Eucharist Jan	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
LINSTEAD ST MARGARET	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09:30 Morning Prayer Anthony A 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	09:30 To Chediston	09:30 Morning Prayer Malcolm H	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
SPEXHALL ST PETER	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall David	11:15 to Holton Iona Worship	11:15 Morning Worship Jane	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
THORINGTON ST PETER	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Worship as announced – Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Patronal – otherwise attend Wenhaston			09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
WENHASTON ST PETER	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09:30 Parish Eucharist Malcolm W 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	10.30 Joint Covenant service at Wenhaston Methodist Chapel	11:15 Pause for Thought with coffee (all age) Alison A	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
WISSETT ST ANDREW	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09:30 Parish Eucharist Jan 15:30 Plough Sunday at Spexhall	09:30 Morning Worship Win	09:30 Late Breakfast church and croissants (all age) Diana	09:30 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HUNTINGFIELD ST MARY					
HIGHFIELD				11:15 Eucharist Tbc between Highfield team	

The Blyth Valley Team Ministry churches try to be INCLUSIVE churches. The Inclusive Church Movement's statement of belief is:

"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

**Halesworth Methodist Church**  
**Sunday Services at 10:30**

**Our sincere apologies for the absence of  
Halesworth Methodist Church material this month.  
We were not able to access it before  
The Blyth Valley Times  
went to press.**

**United Reformed Church**  
**Halesworth and Bramfield**  
**Minister: The Revd Jon Sermon**

JANUARY 2018

- 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30 a.m. WELCOME PRAISE  
11.00 a.m. Communion **Minister**  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service ~ **Mr Bob Dyson**
- 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30 p.m. ELDERS' MEETING
- 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30 a.m. WELCOME PRAISE  
11.00 a.m. Morning Service **Rev Don Nichols**  
3.00 p.m. BRAMFIELD **Minister**  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service **Minister**
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30 a.m. WELCOME PRAISE  
11.00a.m. Morning Service **Minister**  
6.30 p.m. Communion **Peter Wagg**
- 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30 a.m. WELCOME PRAISE  
11.00 a.m. Morning Service **Bob Dyson**  
6.30 p.m. Evening Service **Minister**

**St Edmund King & Martyr**  
**Roman Catholic Church,**  
**Halesworth**  
**Sunday Mass at 09:00**  
**Mass on Fridays at 10:00**

**Wenhaston Methodist Church**  
**Minister: The Revd Louise Morrissey**

**ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10:30**

- 7 Iris Baker  
14 The Revd Peter Rayson  
21 The Revd Louise Morrissey  
Covenant/United Service  
28 Sue Groome

**Tuesday Meetings at 2.30pm**

- 2 Women's Fellowship - Claire Tinker  
9 Bible Study  
16 Women's Fellowship - The Revd Louise Morrissey  
23 Bible Study

**Saturday 6th - 9.30 to 11.00am**

"Pray Awhile" on a come & go basis  
For prayer and meditation

**ALL WELCOME AT ANY EVENT**

**Team Eucharist**  
**St Mary's, Halesworth**  
**Sunday 31 December**  
**10:30**

**Celebrant & Preacher:**  
**The Revd Liz Cannon**

# New Year, New You?

New year resolutions go back to the beginnings of civilisation. Babylonians promised their gods that they would settle their debts and return borrowed items - and that was before the invention of lawn-mowers. Romans made similar avowals to Janus. At the new year, mediæval knights renewed their commitment to chivalry. Many churches, especially the free churches, hold watchnight services on New Year's Eve and seek to become more faithful in the coming year. At Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, there is an emphasis on turning from wrong and learning to forgive. The same idea of fresh beginnings is seen in the Christian season of Lent.

It's good to make resolutions, but not good to make impossible ones we can't keep beyond the second week of January! There's much to be said for 'group resolutions' on the lines of 'Weightwatchers' or 'Slimming World'. Perhaps we should be agreeing targets with our friends and family. And what about our churches?

If there's one thing I'd like all members of our congregations and communities to resolve to do is to **STOP GRUMBLING**. Grumbling undermines what is good and de-energises us as we seek to move forward. It is actually rather deadly. How much better it is to encourage, to affirm and to show real gratitude for what people do for us, for our community, and for the wider world.

Very, very occasionally I come across someone who seems to really believe there is no need for change because they're perfect already. But I do think there's a small element of that in all of us.



People grumble about change because we like our comfort zones and our old, tatty but very comfortable slippers. But scientists remind us that 'change is the stable state'. The word 'repent' is all about change. If there is no change, nothing grows. If nothing grows, it dies - and if we don't change we become spiritually deadened. I should think 99% of our grumbles are about change, and if we think about it in these terms, our grumbling

can be seen as distinctly odd and wildly inappropriate.

If we replace grumbling with a smile (on the inside, as well as on the face) things start to change. We start to change. The impossible starts to become the possible. Creative energy is released.

Our churches - yes, some much more than others - are a dire physical state, or at best they are not fit for purpose - which is to be places for community. Rather than grumble, one of the best resolutions we can make is to install proper (differently-abled friendly) lavatories in virtually all our churches, along with small well-appointed kitchens, and creating space to move around. There is a lot of emphasis on evangelisation/mission at the moment. Lavatories and kitchens probably ought to be at the front of that mission if we're serious about people encountering God and using sacred space.

So, in 2018, let's put our best foot forward, stop grumbling, and see how we can make a difference - not just in the Church, but in the big wide world beyond. Another resolution would be for all our churches - not just some - to give a percentage of their net income to charities and to mission.

New year resolutions have been seen as mainly a personal, individual thing. And I've just expanded the idea to the corporate and community. But that doesn't let the individual off the hook. Perhaps before the infrequently sounding Big Ben in the Elizabeth Tower begins to ring out 2017 and welcome 2018, we should have our realistic resolutions ready. They can be very specific, or very general. See some more general ones below. Who knows? If we make and keep some of them, December 2018 may feel very different!

*Edward.*

LESS	MORE
COMPLAINING	ENCOURAGING
WORRYING	HOPING
FROWNING	SMILING
CRITICISING	AFFIRMING
GLOOMINESS	LAUGHTER

Now write your own...

# “Living with gods: peoples, places and worlds” – a thought-provoking exhibition

Some readers of the Blyth Valley Times may have listened to Neil MacGregor’s Radio 4 series, “Living with gods” which was broadcast recently. In it, he used objects and images from around the world to explore humanity’s need to believe in a transcendent being, a force or spiritual presence outside our material experiences. To accompany the series, there is currently a fascinating exhibition at the British Museum, which I was lucky enough to visit on a recent visit to London.



*Lion man statue*

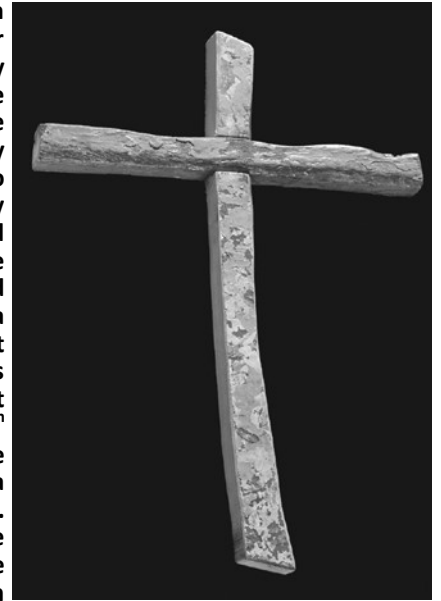
The first object in the exhibition encounters is “Lion Man”, a mammoth ivory statue, dating from 40,000BC, which depicts a human form with a lion’s head. It was found in a cave in Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, and is believed to be the oldest surviving religious image in the world. The exhibition asked how people knew the object held a religious significance and suggested several reasons for this conclusion. Firstly, it was an image that came from the imagination; no such creature actually existed. Secondly, at a time when daily life was a constant struggle to survive, why would a craftsman spend time creating an object that

was of no practical use for hunting or cooking? Finally, it was discovered in a cave which itself seemed to hold some sacred significance. Whilst the belief system which led to Lion man’s creation has long since been lost, the statue shows that the strong human desire to believe in something beyond our earthly lives was present from a very early stage in our evolution.

What is striking, as you move through the exhibition, is the amount different religions and beliefs hold in common. Most use water, fire and light to convey a sense of a spiritual presence in people’s homes and in places of worship. A 14<sup>th</sup> century mosque lamp from Syria continues to capture a sense of a heavenly presence by its reverential beauty, even for a non-Muslim like me. Often-repeated stories help to convey key truths and bind together the communities who share them. Different methods of helping people pray and meditate were represented. The exhibition showed other ways in which communities unite through religious observances: shared rituals, public processions and festivities, particular styles of dress. All these things helped to forge identities and enabled people to face “key life experiences” together.

Towards the end of the exhibition was a display case

showing artefacts connected to the terrible plight of modern refugees. We are all too familiar with the stories of these people, fleeing conflict and famine by escaping their homes by sea in over-crowded and ill-equipped boats. The dangers of these journeys, the high mortality rate, their exploitation by unscrupulous people smugglers, the problems they encounter if they do reach a new country have received widespread coverage in the news. Featured in the exhibition is a Lampedusa Cross. It was made from pieces of a boat that capsized on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013 off the island of Lampedusa in the Mediterranean. More than 360 people perished in the accident, with islanders rescuing 155 others. The island’s carpenter, Mr Tuccio, felt so frustrated and moved by their experience, that he made crosses from the wood of the wrecked boat and gave them to survivors.



*A Lampedusa Cross*

Many survivors were Eritrean Christians and the crosses were made by Mr Tuccio as a symbol of “their salvation from the sea and hope for the future”. The cross in the exhibition was used at service at St Paul’s Cathedral in 2016 for Refugee Week. He felt so frustrated and moved by their experience and his website highlights that it “stands witness to the kindness of the people of Lampedusa who have done what they can for the refugees and migrants who arrive on their shores”.

As we start 2018, it is perhaps timely to remind ourselves of our common humanity, which includes the shared desire to worship God, as illustrated by the “Living with gods” exhibition. At the time of writing this article, tensions over the future of the holy city of Jerusalem are spilling over into violence yet again. How very sad that in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world, we cannot safeguard the city as a sacred centre for many faiths rather than re-enacting past struggles for the supremacy of one belief system over another. We do not seem to have learned that when we group people together under convenient labels, we are brushing aside their uniqueness and value as human beings. Too often in our media the term Muslim is linked to “extremist” or “terrorist”, blatantly ignoring the vast majority of devout Muslims whose faith inspires them to lives of love and service. Sadly, the word “refugee” has come to signify people whose complex problems are unwelcome in our own country, whose presence can fuel prejudice and suspicion.

My hope for 2018 is that we can resolve to find out more about the individuals behind the labels they are given and challenge language that dehumanises groups of people. I hope and pray that as God’s Church we can then openly celebrate and embrace the rich diversity of human religious experience, and continue to work for a world where love, hope and justice become the dominant forces for change.

*Alison Alder*

# Enquire Within!

Reading the Blyth Valley Times regularly may hopefully give you an insight into Church and authentic Christian belief and practice. The article on page 25 may, for example, be quite informative. There are all sorts of ways we can, in a non-dogmatic, non-threatening way, help you discover more. And more is really much more than hearsay, rumour, what you read in the Press, and the ghastly Satellite 'God' channels. To ask questions (questioning is vital) and to explore more, please, in the first instance, contact one of the clergy. We will take you just as you are.

## A FOOD BANK STORY

Hello, All.

I am new to this and really enjoyed my stint at Tesco in Beccles. I spoke to at least five people who told me that they have used the foodbank in the past and how it absolutely saved them. One woman was homeless for 10 years, sleeping rough in the Leiston area. She weighed 40kg and said that if a stranger hadn't guided to the foodbank, she would have starved to death. The highlight for me was when I spoke to a lovely woman who said she wanted to donate money, rather than give food. I pointed her in the direction of the bucket, but she wanted to donate £100! She said that she did not need her winter fuel allowance and was going to gift aid it! Clive was very happy about that!

It was a privilege to do this and it gives you faith in humankind, in that most people want to help others because they care.

Warm regards.

Juliet from Halesworth.



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info@angelpodiatry.com

PODIATRY	CHIROPODY	FOOTWEAR
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**FOOT CARE**

As HCPC registered podiatrists we specialise in the diagnosis and treatment of foot problems. We can offer expert help with:

- Skin problems: e.g. corns, calluses and verrucae
- Nail issues including:
- Laser treatment for fungal nail infections
- Ingrowing nails, thickened nails
- Heel pain and other foot and leg pain
- Diabetic foot care

**FOOTWEAR**

We stock a range of quality footwear in a range of width fittings with qualified staff on hand to give advice.

THE EUROPEAN COMFORT SHOE

ST. MARY'S HALESWORTH HOSTS

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2018

# Burns Night

3 COURSE MEAL / GLASS OF WINE / COFFEE & TRUFFLES / SHOT OF WHISKY  
ALL FOR £15 A TICKET  
WITH MUSIC / POETRY / TABLE QUIZ  
& OF COURSE A GOOD OLD RAFFLE!!  
BOOK YOUR TICKET - SIGN UP IN CHURCH  
OR CONTACT JASON 01986 873336 FOR DETAILS





# News from our

## ST EDMUND'S RC CHURCH

Here we are, once again standing at the gate of another year, in the very depths of winter, Christmas has come and gone. In 2017, more babies have been born and some of our old people have departed. We are told that Planet Earth is definitely getting warmer for whatever reason, perhaps by man's action, perhaps for some geological/astronomical change, possibly both. But it is having an effect on wild life, and some species of birds, mammals and fish are threatened with extinction, made worse by the loss of habitat. We live in dangerous times, torn by wars and their consequences, threatened by nuclear warfare from North Korea - and who knows what Russia may be getting up to? - or how US President Trump might respond to acts of aggression from any source? It hardly bears thinking about!

Truly, my friends, we stand on shifting ground, the future hidden in mists of uncertainty, not knowing whether 'Brexit' will actually come to pass in March 2019, or whether - dare I say it? - the whole time-wasting exercise will collapse, and we stay in! Only time will tell.

Meanwhile, we have need of strength and courage to cling evermore closely to our Faith, for without it the outlook is bleak indeed. Where can we go? To whom may we turn? Let us go to the Scriptures, and consult the word of God. There are so many reassurances, in both Old and New Testaments, so let's consider three, and take heart.

**St John's Gospel, ch 14. v 17: 'Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'**

**Epistle to the Hebrews, ch 13. v 5: 'For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.'**

**St Matthew's Gospel, ch 28. v20: 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'**

Dear friends, we are in his hands. We have his word that he will never desert us, and we have to believe that and live by it. Only then can we find true peace of mind and the will to march boldly forward into the New Year.

*Margaret Holt*

## WENHASTON METHODIST CHURCH

As I am writing this so early in December I cannot comment on our Christmas Services but I am sure they will be as lovely, bright and re-assuring as always and that both St. Peter's and our Carol Services will be well attended. There is nothing more uplifting than a full church of voices singing carols and rejoicing in our Saviour's birth.

I can comment on the very enjoyable CTBV Advent service on the 3rd December, this year held in Halesworth Methodist Church and attended by folk from all denominations of the churches & their Ministers. It was led by the Revd Louise Morrissey our new Methodist minister and all churches took part in the service. It was of course followed by tea and it is so good to meet our fellow Christians from other churches.

This month I shall have the privilege of leading worship the first Sunday, then on the 14th our new Superintendent Minister the Revd Peter Rayson will be with us for the first and we look forward to welcoming him. The third Sunday will be our annual Covenant Service, where we recommit ourselves to our Christian faith. This service will be taken by the Revd Louise Morrissey and we shall be joined by our friends from St. Peter's. The fourth Sunday we shall welcome Sue Groome, one of our local preachers.

The words of the Collect for the Covenant Service

**God of grace, through the mediation of your Son, you call us into a new covenant. Help us therefore to draw near with faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Iris Baker*

# Sister Churches



## HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

It is already busy here – as in all the churches, with the run up to Christmas. And when this comes out it will have happened – and we'll be into New Year.

Like all the churches, we will have enjoyed Carols, Advent anticipation, celebration of the coming of our Saviour! I hope and pray we will all have had chance, also, to ponder the awe of God's incredible gift of his very self. A gift to change the course of history.

Emmanuel. God with us. And still with us by his Holy Spirit today!

As we enter a new year, let's resolve to let God be with us in ever more real ways. We inhabit a society, where the 'norm' for many is to live as though God either doesn't exist or is irrelevant. As Christians, we are called to make a difference. To live differently and to bring the presence of Jesus Christ to others. Whether or not we are usually in the habit of making (perhaps even keeping) new year resolutions, can we all try to go with this one?

Blessings

*Jon*



Living Faith in Suffolk is a series of resources to develop confident Christian faith. Its three strands of Prayer, Practice and Study form an integrated approach to learning and training that enables discipleship, nurtures vocation and provides training for lay ministers.

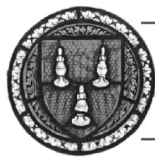
Living Faith in Suffolk currently includes material for individuals and small groups, written in a variety of styles and suitable for different settings. Training events (see below) open to anyone who is interested, are also held throughout the year. Some of the resources are designed for those who are new to the faith, whilst others are suitable for different stages of the faith journey.

Contact Ruth Dennigan, our Diocesan Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer for more information:

Ruth Dennigan

Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer 01473 298503

email: [ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org)



## *Friends of St Mary's Halesworth*

### **What is in a name? Very much if the wit of man could find it out.** *Origin unknown*

We can only speculate how the grunts and noises made by our ancient ancestors developed into language and first became used as names. In small groups each person could easily be identified by a single name, but with larger

communities, it would have become necessary to further define people, such as James the shepherd, Frederick son of, William short, or Henry from Lancaster.

Now, throughout the world, most people have a personal name and a family name, and many cultures and religions have naming ceremonies, important rites of passage. Our name is so much part of who we are.

There is, too, the concept of nominative determinism, the hypothesis that people tend to gravitate towards areas of work which reflect their names, such as Igor Judge, former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, and Storm Field, retired meteorologist. And aptronyms, where a person's name is considered amusingly apt to their occupation, such as a food industry consultant named Faith Popcorn.

We remember people by naming buildings and roads after them. In our community we have Patrick Stead Hospital, named after the C19 maltster, Primes Lane out Blyford way, named after a well-known local family, Durban Close, after Sir Benjamin D'Urban, first governor of the Cape of Good Hope, and Andrew Johnston Way who was killed during WW1 and to whom there is a memorial in St Mary's, Halesworth.

Whilst working on the ancestry of Prince George, genealogist, writer and broadcaster, Anthony Adolph, unearthed the fact that the Prince's ninth great-grandfather through his mother, the Duchess of Cambridge, was a Halesworth man. Benjamin Fairfax was a draper who lived and worked in the town over 350 years ago. He was the son of a vicar of Rumburgh (another Benjamin), who was dismissed in 1662 for his nonconformist views.

The daughter of a Red Cross volunteer, Mrs Moore, kept an autograph book of wounded soldiers treated at Patrick Stead Hospital during WW1. In 2011 Halesworth & District Museum was contacted by a lady whose grandfather had spent time at the hospital after losing part of his leg in May 1915. His name was Private G H Smith – Smith being the most common surname in the UK! However, detective work established that he had indeed signed the autograph book and drawn a satirical map entitled 'The Kaiser's Dream' illustrating the Kaiser's

hope of conquering all Europe.

There are also some unusual names in the history of St Mary's Church as well. Ulf, a priest in the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), held the Rectory Manor and the D'Argenteins were mediæval benefactors. Robert Baas a C18 solicitor, magistrate and churchwarden at Chediston was also known for introducing a strain of cabbage from Portugal; gas lighting was installed at the altar rail in St Mary's in his memory. And Reverend Abbot Roland Upcher (nominative determinism?) 1849-1929, who was vicar of St Mary's.

In recent years there has been an upsurge of interest in family history as hobby or all-consuming passion, with websites, television programmes and professional family history researchers. There is a steady interest in genealogy locally and some useful resources.

The Museum has some records of people with a local connection and their researcher, Alison Whale, is a valuable source of information

(email: [office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk](mailto:office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk)).

It also has the survey of Halesworth Cemetery carried out in 1981 by Halesworth Women's Institute, which lists the inscriptions on all the gravestones in the town cemetery, the United Reformed Church burial ground and St Mary's graveyard and which can be inspected.

Janet Huckle, local resident, has a wealth of knowledge and has transcribed burial records dating back to when Halesworth Cemetery opened on 1 January 1855, leads guided walks, helps research family histories and monitors the condition of headstones. The first reference to the churchyard is 1375 and it closed for burials on 31 December 1855, following an Act of Parliament. However burials continued for anyone with a family plot until at least 1889.

All Saint's Church, Blyford, has copies of the following records, marriages, burials and baptisms from 1695–1727, baptisms: 1783–1820, 1813–1929, marriages: 1769–1829, 1783–1831, 1837–1944, 1945–1964, and burials: 1784–1820, 1813–1993.

The registers from St Mary's Church, Chediston, date from 1630.

Records can also be consulted at the Country Record Offices at Ipswich and Lowestoft.

So, what's in a name? Quite a lot actually.

*Jenny Janes*

## *The Arms of Argentine • Mediaeval Benefactors*



### Lunchtime Recitals

Many thanks to the Red Barn Chamber Orchestra for their performance in December. Please look forward to photos and report in next month's issue along with further details of the Feb recital and those booked for 2018.

#### NO RECITAL IN JANUARY

The next recital Wed 14th Feb by The Blyth Ensemble.

If you would like your email added to our recitals (the second Wednesday of every month) mailing list, please email

**friendsofstmarys@talktalk.net**

or go to

**facebook.com/FriendsOfStMarysHalesworth**

where you can also find details of previous recitals.

More photos can be seen on our website:

**www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth.org.uk**

### Table Top Sale

Many thanks to all who donated items for the FOSM table top sale on Sat 9th Nov or who volunteered their time in such cold weather to man the stall. We raised over £80.

### Donations

Many thanks to the Dynamic Dental Studio for their donation to the Friends of St Mary's Regeneration Fund. Please see page 22 for a photograph of the presentation.

Thanks also to everyone who has supported us during 2017, including Halesworth Tourism Group, we really do appreciate it and hope to receive your continued support for 2018.

### 50/50 Club Winners for Nov:

1st Prize: R O'Leary

2nd Prize:

3rd Prize:

If you would like to join the 50/50 club, forms can be found on the table by the North door.

### HALESWORTH dementia CARERS' FUND

Since my last offering in November, we have screened the very successful film "Their Finest" starring our favourite, Bill Nighy, along with many other well-known stars. It was greatly enjoyed by all.

Our next film on Wednesday, 17 January 2018, will be "Going in Style", a comedy starring Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman and Alan Arkin. This will be at the Cut at 1.45 for 3pm start and, as always, the cost is just £5 payable at the door. We will hold a grand draw and Jill will sell her lovely hand-made cards. We look forward to seeing you there.

On Friday, 17 November we held a Charity Gig, at Chinny's, with live music given free by Alex and the excellent "Skylights". This was very well attended and enjoyed by all. This, and the draw, raised a grand total of £850 towards the ever-increasing cost of providing respite care for families and carers of people living with dementia.

Following our recent local applications for funding, we have received a generous donation of £10,000 from Heveningham Hall Trust, and £5,000 awarded from Halesworth Town Council. We are so grateful and thank them both. This additional funding will be very well used for our essential work. Every penny we receive and work for goes directly towards this.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2018.

Paddy Flegg - Publicity

### A HISTORY OF EARLY MODERN ALDEBURGH

The January meeting of the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group will be an illustrated talk by Diana Hughes to demonstrate the fascinating insight into the history of early modern Aldeburgh, gained from the Borough's accounts. We shall meet the Councillors and the problems they had to deal with. There were attacks on the coast and cannon on the beach; punishments could be cruel; and seven local women were tried and hanged for witches. And all in the town that we know so well today.

Since retiring from a career in teaching Diana Hughes has furthered her interest in local history, firstly with the National Trust on Dunwich Heath and then with the Aldeburgh Museum. Presently she is working to finish a transcription of the Aldeburgh Chamberlains' Accounts (1566-1590 & 1625-1649), and at the same time helping to plan a new display for a revitalised Aldeburgh Museum.

The meeting will be held at **2.30pm on Monday 15 January at Snape Village Hall**. Visitors welcome. Admission: members £1, visitors £3, incl tea/coffee.

#### OUR RESEARCH CENTRE

The Family History Research Centre in the Leiston Council offices is open to all, free of charge, from 10am to 12noon on the first and third Saturday morning of each month, and on Wednesdays by prior appointment. If you wish to request an appointment, please contact Angela Skelcher on 01728 830949.

We have recently acquired a large number of CDs and microfiches of local interest. The research centre has computers with Internet, printer, and a scanner. There is also Wi-Fi Internet access if you wish to bring your own laptop or tablet. Experienced family history researchers are present to give assistance if required.

The Research Centre is upstairs in the old Council Offices in Main Street, Leiston, IP16 4ER, in the same building as and to the right of the Library, opposite the Long Shop Museum. Please note that access is by a steep staircase. You can park outside free of charge for one hour, or there's an "unlimited" free car park in Valley Road - go straight on past Barclay's Bank and it's on the right. The Group looks forward to helping you with your family history research and to welcoming new members into the fold!

For more info, see our website:

**<http://aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net/>**

## Halesworth & District Museum From the Archives

Letter from J S Evans

To the Rev. Jos Badeley, Halesworth, Suffolk

Postmarked November 1832

*My dear Sir*

*I am so feeble & helpless that it is as much as I can do to express my wish & intreat that you & Mr Crabtree may manage the misunderstanding, as well as you can, for into Mr Crabtree's & your hands I do implicitly intrust & rest my cause, & I hope my thus expressing myself is a sufficient authority for him, Mr Crabtree to act discretionarily, & as he shall think proper. I have not yet received Mr Butchers letter, but when it comes, I shall be able to do no more than to copy some parts of your instructions (if so much) & I beg you'll show this letter to Mr Crabtree. I quake & tremble at the Idea of a Lawsuit, but my only relief is the conclusion of your letter. I remain yours, as ever my dr friend*

Harrow Nov 15<sup>th</sup> -32

J S Evans

*If any of my Parishioners talk of bringing me down to receive my tithes in Person, they surely must be devoid of Christianity – A feeble old man, aged 88, to travel 110 miles, I have but a step to my grave! If I am not mistaken, my*

*successor will be able to cope with them.*

The Museum has this letter in its archives, but no background information as to the lawsuit with which the Reverend JS Evans was apparently threatened. The Reverend Evans was vicar of Holton but living in Harrow, Middlesex, at the time. The Reverend Joseph Badeley was rector at Halesworth from 1831-1837. Robert and John Crabtree were uncle and nephew and the leading lawyers in Halesworth for much of the C19.

Tithes were originally a tax which required one tenth of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to support the local church and clergy. The right to receive tithes was granted to the English churches by King Ethelwulf in 855 and affirmed under the Statute of Westminster of 1285. The dissolution of monasteries led to the transfer of many rights to tithe to secular landowners and the Crown – and tithes could be extinguished until 1577 under an Act during the reign of Henry VIII. The system gradually ended with the Tithe Commutation Act 1836, replacing them with a commutation payment, land award and/or rent charges.

If you know any more about this story, do get in touch with the Museum and tell us.

Email: [office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk](mailto:office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk)

*Jenny Janes*



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# What's On



The Blyth Valley  
Team Ministry

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HOLTON**  
invites you to the

**POP  
IN  
PARLOUR**



**Friday 5 January  
12 noon to 1.30 pm  
in St Peter's Room**

## PANTOMIME AT THE CUT



**Thur 11 Jan, 7.30pm**

**Fri 12 Jan, 7.30pm**

**Sat 13 Jan, 2.30pm & 7.30pm**

**Tickets:** £6.50 Adults, £4.50 Children (14 & under)

Group bookings of 12+ people, £4.50 per person

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Saturday 3rd February  
7pm for 7.30pm start



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In aid of H.C.N.C.F.



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# What's On at Halesworth Library

If you're looking for a unique gift with local flavour, we are now selling the wonderful Halesworth in Bloom Calendar, with photographs from some of the loveliest gardens in Halesworth.

Looking, for example, to de-clutter or offering a service? We have a new display board in the library window, useful for when you want to sell an old bike or find a babysitter. Please ask staff for details.

We also stock a popular range of reading glasses and accessories from ReadySpex. Please come and view our selection.

Monday from 10am to 12pm, local writer / publisher Tom Corbett runs a creative writing group at the Library. A parallel group is held on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 9pm at Bridge House, a minute from the Library. This eight-week rolling programme includes both poetry and prose writing. For more information, contact Tom on 07831 364021.

Board Games Café is a great way to socialise and play some fun new games, or re-visit old favourites! Usually the last Monday of the month. Diary dates for the New Year: Mondays 29<sup>th</sup> January; 26<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

Tuesday mornings we usually have a support session for using Laptops and iPads from 9.45 to 10.45am. £5 per session. There is also the possibility of one to one sessions at £15 per hour. All places must be booked; please contact staff.

On a Tuesday, we have Baby Bounce and Tot rock from 10 to 11am, for babies / toddlers and parents/carers. Young and old can make new friends and enjoy some company.

Are you new to the area and want a bit of company? On the first and third Tuesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January) from 2 to 4pm "Knit & Natter, Stitch & Chatter" takes place. Support for your craft projects. New members welcome. If knitting's not your thing, on the second and fourth Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January) from 2 to 4pm "Mindfulness Colouring" takes place. Use our materials or bring your own. New members welcome; a great way to meet people.

Wednesday from 10.30am to 12pm we host the popular and friendly "Time Out" session. 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas party – songs, poems, stories... and of course, very good company! 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Christmases past, present and hopes for the future – come and share your tales.

On Thursday mornings (when the Library is otherwise closed) we host two fitness classes suitable for all abilities (in both classes all activity is done while seated). From 9.30 to 10.15am there is an exercise

class which includes cardio and strength movements. Then the popular "I Move Freely" class of gentle fitness exercises takes place between 10.30 and 11.30am. The price is £4 per session, but if you attend both, the second session will be half price! Any queries please email [susan.potter.57@hotmail.com](mailto:susan.potter.57@hotmail.com) or text 07780 707972.

Are you a chess player? There is a chess club at the library! Please call Andrew Lindqvist on 01986 785467 or email [andrewlindqvist@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewlindqvist@btinternet.com) for more details.

On the second Saturday of the month (13<sup>th</sup> January) between 10 and 11am, your local councillor Tony Goldson holds a drop-in surgery.

Sunday between 12 and 2.30pm we have craft activities and stories for children. Drop in and join in the fun. All ages are welcome, and it's free!

Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> December) from 10 to 11am the Library hosts Lego Club. All are welcome. £2 per builder.

Monthly on Sundays (17<sup>th</sup> December) at 11am to 12.30pm we have Book Wizards reading club for children aged 7 to 13. This is free, but it is essential to book ahead.

Don't forget that even when we are closed you can visit [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk) On that website, there are lots of totally free downloads: music; e-books; audio books; and magazines. You can also click on Halesworth Library's own website.

For more information about our services and facilities, please email or phone us, or come in and speak to one of our friendly members of staff. Find out about using computers, printers, photocopiers, scanners, fax machines and laminators. Use the internet and Skype, even borrow an i-pad. Ask about putting a display in our window or posting a notice there for a local event or service. Remember too that you can rent space in the Library for meetings.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Or e-mail us at [halesworth.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:halesworth.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk) or phone us on 01986 875095.

You can join our 500 followers on Facebook (Search for Facebook Halesworth Library) for daily posts about events and matters relating to reading, writers, libraries and more! You do NOT have to be a member of Facebook to look at our page. Or follow us on Twitter @HalesworthLib.

*Alison Hopkins.*



## The Birds of Christmas - contributor Sylvia Vogt

Birds are considered a universal symbol of happiness and joy and are regarded by many to be a necessity on the Christmas tree. Birds represent messengers of love and are the harbingers of good things to come. Many people also remember the birds at Christmas. *Bird Customs in our own Christmas traditions are exemplified in the first seven stanzas of the Twelve Days of Christmas:*

### ***On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me A Partridge in a Pear Tree***

The partridge is a member of the pheasant family and has been a traditional game bird in England for centuries. The partridge referred to in the carol is most likely a Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) or English Partridge. Partridges are usually ground birds who feed on seeds and insects so we are not sure why it would be sitting in a pear tree.

### ***On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me Two Turtle Doves***

The Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) is a common summer visitor to England. It is a dainty dove, smaller and darker than most other pigeons but would have been featured in banquets in medieval times just as today we eat pigeon.

### ***On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me Three French Hens***

There are four well-known breeds of French hens; Faverolles, La Fleche, Crevecœurs and Marans. Faverolles have superior egg-laying ability during the winter months so would make an ideal gift for someone's true love at Christmas.

### ***On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Four Calling Birds***

Most people interpret a calling bird as a song bird. However, the original song referred to "Four Colly Birds". The word colly means "black as coal or soot" so it is likely that the gift was four blackbirds (*Turdus merula*). We know that blackbirds were eaten in the past from the children's nursery rhyme "Four And Twenty Blackbirds Baked In A Pie".

### ***On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Five Gold Rings***

The gold rings are not in fact pieces of jewellery as the literal meaning would have you believe but are actually ring-necked birds. These are most likely to be Common (Ring-necked) Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) which were introduced to England from China in medieval times. Pheasant is still a popular game bird eaten today.

### ***On sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Six Geese-a-Laying***

The geese in this verse are probably domesticated birds so are likely to be the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), the ancestor of our domesticated geese. The Greylag Goose is a large, native British bird and is still traditionally eaten for Christmas.

### ***On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me Seven Swans a-swimming***

Nowadays Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) are protected birds but there are many surviving medieval recipes for swans.

### ***The French also have a charming LEGEND OF THE BIRDS adapted here by Bethany Roberts***

Long, long ago, on that first Christmas Eve, **Raven** was flying near Bethlehem. Suddenly, a great host of angels was flying beside him. "Caw!" cried **Raven** in his harsh voice. "What is happening?"

"We bring great news!" an angel told him. "The Christ Child has been born today in a manger in Bethlehem. Go and tell all the other birds!"

Raven called all the other birds and told them what the angel had said. "We must go and see the Babe," said **Raven**. As he spoke these words, Raven's raspy voice was suddenly as sweet as a songbird's.

"Who? Who?" said **Owl**. "Who is this Saviour?" **Owl** refused to go, and to this day, he is still saying, "Who? Who?"

But the other birds quickly flew to Bethlehem to see the newborn King.

**Wren** wove a soft blanket of feathers and moss for the baby. Because of this, she is called la poulette de Dieu, God's little chicken.

**Rooster** crowed at daybreak to announce the Baby's birth. But instead of his usual cock-a-doodle-doo, he sang, "Christus natus est!" which means "Christ is born!"

**Nightingale**, with her beautiful voice, sang a glorious lullaby to the Baby.

Little brown **Robin** wanted to give the Christ Child a gift, too. He couldn't weave like Wren. He couldn't crow like Rooster. He couldn't sing like Nightingale. But Robin could fan the flames of the fire, to keep the Baby warm. He stayed so long, and so close to the flames, that he singed his breast feathers. That is why, to this very day, **Robin** has a red breast.

### ***Other birds appearing in Christian tradition and legend:***

#### **Goldfinch**

The goldfinch is known for eating thistles and thorns, which in Christian imagery almost always refers to Jesus' crown of thorns. For this reason the child Jesus is sometimes depicted in art holding a goldfinch, foreshadowing his Passion and death on the cross.

#### **Owl**

Another bird associated with darkness, the owl's nocturnal habits made it a symbol of evil or Satan. However, the owl has also been a constant symbol for wisdom and solitude, which is why it was also used in depictions of certain wise saints. Owls can also be seen at crucifixion scenes, referring to how Christ came to give light to those who live in darkness.

#### **Pelican**

The bird symbolizes the soul and its resurrection. The bird nourishes itself on the blood of Christ, an act that refers to the Eucharist.

#### **Wild Goose**

Interestingly, the ancient Celtic people saw the Holy Spirit not as a hovering white dove but as a "wild goose." The meaning behind this peculiar choice is because they saw how the Holy Spirit has a tendency to disrupt and surprise. The Holy Spirit moves in our lives in an unexpected fashion, similar to the actions of a wild goose; you cannot restrain a wild goose and bend it to your will, they're raucous and loud, challenging, strident and unnerving – and just a bit scary. In much the same way the Spirit of God can be demanding and unsettling. Think about the story of Pentecost, and the impression the disciples made on the crowd. People thought they were drunk and disorderly! Its one thing for a gentle dove to descend peacefully on Jesus – it's something all together different when the Spirit descends like a wild, noisy goose!

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich

## Halesworth Mothers' Union

2017

the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said....

As we begin a new year let's take a brief glance back at Mothers' Union over the years....

- 1876 Organisation founded by Mary Sumner. She wanted to create an organisation for women that brought together rich and poor to support mothers as they brought up their children in the Christian faith.
- 1918 We celebrated women over 30's right to vote by advising members on how to use their vote wisely.
- 1952 The Queen writes to grant her royal patronage to Mothers' Union.
- 1965 Away From It All (AFIA) holiday scheme for disadvantaged families is launched.
- 2000 Mothers' Union is given consultative status within the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations on issues such as poverty, gender equality and HIV and Aids. The Literacy & Development programme was launched and since then 165,000 people have benefitted.
- 2010 Our Bye Buy Childhood Campaign called on the government to ensure that the advertising and marketing industry value children as children and not consumers and to stop exploiting their natural inexperience to pressure their parents. It also lobbied to stop companies from sexualising children in their advertising.

"Mothers' Union has always been at the heart of the Church and community. For 140 years, faith and action have been at the core of what you do. I have seen this for myself both at home and abroad. You truly are the heart and love of the church."

As we look forward to the New Year and new possibilities for Mothers' Union we invite you to join us on the third Thursday of the month in St. Mary's Church hall at 2 p.m. A Happy New Year to you all.

*Win Sutton.*

### Mothers' Union at I-Chameleon

The Mothers' Union branches in the North Suffolk Area hired the I-Chameleon pop-up shop in the Thoroughfare in Halesworth from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Each branch took the responsibility of manning the shop for a day, Halesworth on the Friday and Wenhaston on the Tuesday. The shop was well stocked and sold lots of books, bric-a-brac, preserves, jams and marmalade, also handbags, scarves and some clothes. We also had some MU Christmas cards, calendars, diaries, gifts and greetings cards. I hope you saw us there, popped in to have a look and hopefully bought something.

Over the course of the week we took almost £1,500 which I think is an amazing result! Thank you to everyone who came and served in the I-Chameleon in the course of the week and thank you to everyone who supported us. The funds raised will go through the Mothers' Union to support families in the UK and Overseas. The Committee will meet at the end of January and will decide exactly which MU Funds we would like the money to go to.

We have booked I-Chameleon next year, from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 1st August, which was the only week available. It is certainly a popular Pop-up Shop. Hopefully there will be summer visitors about in Halesworth then. Please put the date in your diary.

Janet Walkey,  
MU Deanery Leader



Christmas is looming and by the time you read this it will probably have passed. It is very sad that it has become such a secular celebration. We are always delighted when people come into the shop to buy Advent calendars and, even better, books for Christmas presents. Do please consider giving books for adults and children. There are some very good Christian books for all especially Bibles for children and there is another series of the Gospels "Diary of a Disciple" by the various Gospel writers – 8 to 12 year olds.

We may not be moving house in the New Year, but it is a good time to declutter. Are there articles of clothing or household items that you have not used for the past two years or so – take them to the charity shop or sell them. I know I am sometimes too dependent on too many things. What are the bare essentials we need? Is our security our possessions or our faith? The teaching of Christ when starting the New Year is a reminder that our faith should touch every part of our lives. It's not just about Sunday or spiritual "bits" but it is also about shaping our everyday lives.

On behalf of the Trustees I do wish everyone a happy and blessed New Year and thank everyone involved in the shop from our wonderful helpers to our equally helpful customers and donors.

Jill Macfarlane

### St Mary's, Halesworth

#### Receipts Summary

October 2017

<b>Collections:</b>	<b>204.27</b>
<b>Planned Giving</b>	<b>1034.00</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>210.70</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>167.12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>1706.09</u></b>
<b>Wednesday Coffee</b>	<b>63.15</b>

**THANKS to church members and supporters for your great generosity. However, we still have a long way to go to meet our obligations.**

**Parishes have recently been reminded that it takes an *average* of £10 per week to make ends meet - some will be able to give much less, and some much more.**

**Please see page 25 for the Christmas Appeal.**

## Our New Team Administrator

The Team Rector is pleased to announce the appointment of Carolyn Clarke as our new Team Administrator. For many years, Carolyn has been the manager of Community News - indeed, from its inception.

Carolyn will work in the Team Office on Tuesday to Friday mornings each week - precise timings to be finalised. She begins work on Tuesday, 9 January. Her job will include the production of the Blyth Valley Times.

## Blyth Valley Times

is published monthly by the  
**Blyth Valley Team Ministry.**

The Team Rector and Editor is  
Edward Rennard Tel: 01986 872602  
email: edward.rennard@gmail.com

**Please ensure all copies are sent to  
[blythvalleytimes@bvtm.org.uk](mailto:blythvalleytimes@bvtm.org.uk)**

Blyth Valley Times and Team Office  
St Mary's Church, Steeple End,  
Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8LL

**PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for ALL copy  
for the next issue is midday on**

**Saturday  
12th January  
but the sooner the better.**

## Advertising

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For information call 01986 875941  
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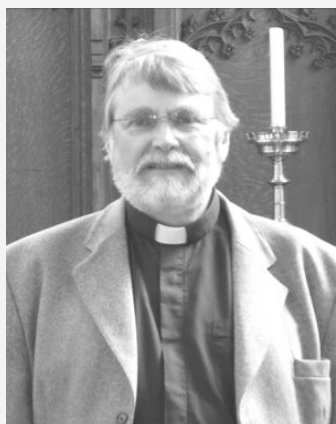
## Team Office

Situated within St Mary's Church, Halesworth  
Tel: 01986 875941

**[teamoffice@bvtm.org.uk](mailto:teamoffice@bvtm.org.uk)**

**Team Administrator: Carolyn Clarke**

## Blyth Valley Ministry Team



### Edward Rennard: Team Rector

The Rectory, Highfield Road,  
Halesworth, IP19 8SJ

**Tel: 01986 872602 Mob: 07958 191975**

email: edward.rennard@gmail.com

**(off duty Monday)**



### Jan Bunday: Team Vicar

The Vicarage, Beccles Road,  
Holton, Suffolk, IP19 8NG

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**(off duty Friday)**

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*If telephoning, please always leave a message  
If there is no one available to take your call.*

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## Team Council Contacts

**Edward Rennard: Team Rector, Chair of Team Council**

**Lay Chair of Team Council:** vacant at December 2017

**Pedro Cockerton: Team Treasurer**

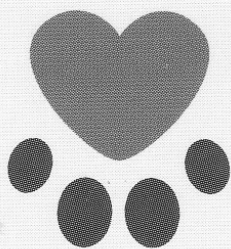
Tel: 01986 873431 email: treasurer@bvtm.org.uk

**Carolyn Clarke: Clerk to Team Council &  
Team Administrator**

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## CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	TELEPHONE
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<b>Bramfield</b>	John Stevenson	<b>01986 784311</b>
<b>Chediston</b>	Veronica Downing Graeme Williams	<b>01986 873184</b> <b>01986 875342</b>
<b>Halesworth</b>	Gwen Woolner Jean Lucas	<b>01986 872560</b> <b>01986 874468</b>
<b>Holton</b>	John Hewlett Jackie Moulson	<b>01986 875913</b> <b>01986 875457</b>
<b>Linstead</b>	Clive Frost Roger Wilkinson	<b>01986 785236</b> <b>01986 785167</b>
<b>Spexhall</b>	Fred Woods Janet Sochon	<b>01986 781256</b> <b>01986 781151</b>
<b>Thorington</b>	Trish & Mike Gower	<b>01502 478267</b>
<b>Wenhaston</b>	Margaret Goldstone	<b>01502 478378</b>
<b>Wissett</b>	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	<b>01986 873173</b> <b>01986 872372</b>



**A Pawfect World**

**Kate Cornthwaite**  
Professional Dog Groomer

**01986 873596**  
**07917 608257**

Hessam,  
Spexhall, Halesworth, IP19 0RJ

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## HALESWORTH DAY CENTRE

Can you help us, please?

We urgently need a

# COOK

**On Tuesday and/or Friday Mornings**

**for three hours each day**

**to cook our lunches.**

**For further details, please contact:**

**Mrs Lynne Trussler on 01986 784408**

**or**

**Dr Jean Macheath on 01986 873172**

**Please leave your contact details**

**And we WILL get back to you.**

## ECUMENICAL CLERGY

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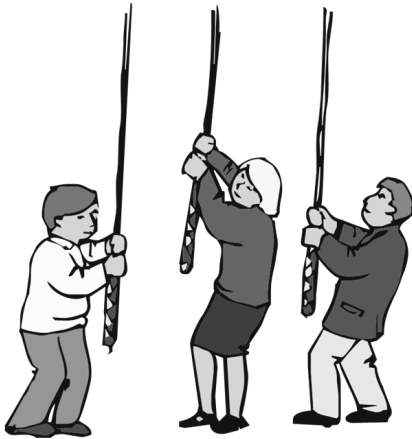
**Roger Spencer** *Roman Catholic Priest*  
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# News from Town and Villages



## News from the Ringing Chamber

will resume next month.

## Bramfield

Temporary Correspondent  
**June Brereton**

[www.bramfieldthorington.onesuffolk.net](http://www.bramfieldthorington.onesuffolk.net)

Apologies from June, but her Internet connection has gone down and she is unable to submit material to the Blyth Valley Times this month. Team and Parish worship details may be found on page 3.

## Blyford

Correspondent  
**Alison Cackett**  
**01986 874442**

Happy new year from all of us at Blyford! The main thing to report is our 2018 service pattern.

There will be a service at Blyford on the 4th Sunday of each month, starting with a Eucharist in January and then alternate month between the Eucharist and morning worship.

Please don't forget the Team Eucharist on the first Sunday at St Mary's, Halesworth and the Team Evensong on the 2nd Sunday - see

the Blyth Valley Times for times and details. There is plenty of opportunity for worship across the Team, including at St Peter's, Wenhamston, our neighbouring parish.

*Geoff and Alison Cackett*

## Chediston

Correspondent  
**Sally Aldous**  
**01986 873363**

[www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk)

### Remembrance Service

There was a good turnout of villagers at the War Memorial for this very significant annual service. We were indeed very lucky to have members of the Royal British Legion present. John Parson read out the names of the fallen from Chediston in the Great War and the Second World War. Two wreaths were laid at the foot of the Memorial and after prayers a member of the Royal British Legion played the "Last Post".



After the remembrance outside Veronica led us through the service in Church where we were fortunate to have Florence as our organist playing well known and popular hymns including the National Anthem. The church itself was beautifully decorated and poignant with red poppies against the white walls. During the service Veronica paid tribute to the victims of the bomber aeroplane crash at Herne Hill, where the five New Zealanders all perished. There is now a beautiful piece of embroidery framed by Anne

Williams, depicting the names of all those who died.

### Chediston Christmas Fair 2017

Our annual Christmas Fair took place on December 2nd in the Church Schoolroom. Despite being down on turn-out of folk we made £700, only £20 down on last year's result which was a splendid effort from all the stall holders. The stalls were many and varied ranging from crafts, cakes, raffle, bagatelle, bottle stall, etc. & refreshments were served including some excellent mulled wine! Most important of all, there was a good convivial atmosphere throughout the whole day. Father Christmas was welcomed by all the children and looked resplendent in his outfit.



Many thanks to all of those who got the room ready in the morning and thanks to everyone who helped to make it the success it was. Not forgetting the clearers up afterwards. We have never changed the format of this annual event. The first time I attended was in 1970, when I was asked by Dick Colby to open it!

As most of you will now probably know, John Ibbott from Town Farm had a very nasty accident whilst out hunting with the Waveney Harriers but thankfully is now home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

At our WI Christmas Lunch on December 5th at the Huntsman &

Hounds at Spexhall, it was nice to meet up with Stella Cattermole who wished to be remembered to all members at the Blyth Valley Team.

A very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all. If this "piece" gets to you in time our much-loved Carol Service is at 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve and the Christmas morning service is at 9.30 am.

*Sally Aldous*

### Stop Press

**At the time of going to press, we hear that Veronica and Graham have had a serious fire at Bridge Farm, and the barn has been destroyed. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.**

## Halesworth

### Correspondent

**Jason Busby**

**01986 873336**

Our thanks to Dr Michelle Wingard of the Dynamic Dental Studio in Angel Link for her kind donation to the Friends of St Mary's, Halesworth. Michelle is on the right, and Bridget, her dental nurse, is on the left.



So let me put the start of my column in context. It is Saturday 9th December where I spent 40mins on the keyboard outside the Wine Shop in the market place accompanying Churches Together Carol Singing. As Jan put it, my fingers were like "frozen chips!" We did collect £76.21 for the Rohingya Crisis. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.

So now it is 8.30pm, with Strictly Come Dancing (of which we're big fans of in this household) on pause while I finish this column, my fingers now thawed. I'm thinking ahead to tomorrow morning, Breakfast Church, Eucharist at Holton and in the afternoon a Christmas Service of



Remembrance in St. Mary's organised by Rosedale Funeral Home. I'm also very much thinking of good friends of us all, Veronica and Graham Downing whose thatched barn which houses her business went up in smoke over night. Veronica's daughter has made a profound comment on facebook saying "It can take a terrible thing to happen to your family home to make you realise just how precious life is, and that material possessions really don't matter". We pray the Downing family can still have a peaceful Christmas together. Thinking of you all. Blessings from us all at St. Mary's.

Then to throw me into further confusion, in today's post was the latest edition of 'Church Music Quarterly' for the period from Passiontide through to Easter and onto Trinity which includes music details for the ten days between Ascension Day & Pentecost. It is hard to imagine those Churches/Cathedrals planning music that far in advance when I haven't chosen music for Midnight Mass or Christmas Day yet! (Although that is fairly easy: all 7 verses of 'O come all ye faithful' all lined up!) For me, Christmas is all about the 'Nine Lessons & Carols' my personal highlight. I'm asked if I get fed up with Christmas Carols. Actually I don't. Like Edward & Jan and all those who lead Christmas, I reckon most musicians and clergy actually enjoy Christmas, and wrestle if only a little with its twofold challenge: the physical, mental challenge of delivering high quality, gospel-focused, coherent and intellectually satisfying Christmas services and sermons; and the challenge to cut through the tinsel to truly ask, 'Can you hear what I hear? Those who lead Christmas services want the angels' song *Gloria in excelsis* to be not only heard, but taken into the hearts of hearers who at least if they do not begin to attend weekly, will go away perhaps changed for the better. At no other time of year are the ministries of work and music so intertwined. At this time of year there are so many thanks: to those who donated &

decorated trees for the festival, to Gwen, Simon & the young man I pulled off the street to help put the 20ft centre piece in St. Mary's up, to Bob & Maggie Stephenson of Woodside Farm Holton for donating the tree and five small trees. The list goes on & on. To everyone who has contributed in some way THANK YOU.

Looking ahead to January 2018, we celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas on 31st December with a 10.30am Team Service in St. Mary's at which the Revd Liz Cannon will celebrate and preach. But then you will need to watch this space very, very carefully as the pews are scheduled to be removed during January. Services will be disrupted, moved across to the Church Hall or even to a different church, but we will endeavour to keep the disruption to a minimum and try to keep communication up with service times / location via email, text, phone, poster on the church doors etc etc during this very exciting time. During the removal of the pews I am going to pop into church every day, take a photo from the same position then collate the pictures into a short video showing the removal. A historic moment don't you think? I personally hope & pray that this very first stage of bringing the physical building back to life will give the good people of Halesworth encouragement & enthusiasm to get behind our Regeneration Project.

A celebration for life of David Frederic Hatcher took place on Tuesday 14th November & for Tony Miller on Tuesday 21st November. Tony was heavily involved with the fishing industry in his time, the service was officiated by Peter Paine of the Mission to Seafarers. We of course sang 'Eternal Father, strong to save' & Crimond, 'The Lord's my Shepherd' with the Seafarers' Psalm to conclude the service. "Loosely based on Psalm 23, adapted for seafarers everywhere... The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift; He lighteth me across the dark waters; He steereth me in the deep channels. He keepeth my log. He guideth me by the star of holiness for his name sake. Yea though I sail mid the thunders and tempests of life, I shall dread no danger, for thou art near me. Thy love and care, they shelter me. Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity. Thou anointest the waves with oil, my ship rideth calmly. Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage

I take, And I will rest in the port of my God forever. Capt John H Rogers, 1874" The Funeral for the late John Stannard takes place on Thursday 21st December at 10am in St. Mary's.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce we will be hosting a BURNS NIGHT on Friday 26th January. A 3 course meal / glass of wine / coffee & truffles / shot of Whisky all for £15 a ticket. With music, poetry, a table quiz & of course a good old raffle! To book your ticket either sign up in church & pay on the night or contact myself Jason Busby on 01986 873336. We do need to sell a minimum of 30 tickets for the event to go ahead so please book early & invite family & friends.

## **Holton Temporary Correspondent John Hewlett**

01986 875913

johnfhewlett@btinternet.com

Happy New Year to all our readers!

### **Remembrance Sunday 2017**

Last year's Remembrance Sunday service was marked, as usual, by walking afterwards to the Holton Airfield War Memorials to the men of the 56th Fighter Group, to the 489th Bomb Group and to the 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron. The names of those from these groups who died were read aloud as we walked up Lodge Road (as they must have often walked down to the village) and poppy wreaths were placed in tribute at the three memorials.

The service was attended by seven



personnel from RAF Lakenheath, seen in the photo; Lt Col Joe Stangl (centre) is the youngest son of the late James Stangl who served with the 489th Bomb Group at Halesworth during

1944. James flew with the 'Shickel' crew in a B-24 named "We Weary Warriors". (Photo by airfield museum volunteer Paul Starkes).

*Marjorie Shiers*

### **New Treasurer**

Welcome to Simon Larbey, who was appointed as Treasurer in November, to start work on 1st January. Simon moved to Holton this year, and has previously worked as East of England Finance Manager for English Heritage; he will be an invaluable member of St Peter's Team.

### **Christmas Fair**

Holton & Blyford Village Hall was looking very festive for the Church Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December. Stall holders each decorated their tables with lights and baubles, and the village hall put on a lovely display of Christmas trees on the stage. We enjoyed the company of lots of visitors meeting old friends for a cuppa, a snack and a chat. The stalls were once again amazing, everyone bringing their wares made with love to sell for the Church; we raised in total £1,399.10, an increase of more than 3% over last year's total.

A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our fair a success once again; from the stall holders to the visitors, it is a real team effort. Thank you for your support.

*Dot Booley & Helen Knevet*

### **Photo Board**

St Peter's Church Council has agreed to have a Photo Board as a way of introducing the church community to visitors who come to look round the church. With your permission, John Hewlett will be taking photographs of you during the next weeks for display in the church. We would like to add names, but realise that this needs care and discussion for obvious security reasons; your ideas and thoughts would be very welcome.

### **Prayer Board**

When writing about our new prayer board last month, I should have mentioned our grateful thanks to Roger Moulson who very generously offered us his brand new painting easel for us to use as a prayer board. It is just perfect for our needs. Thank you Roger.

### **Particular Prayer for Others**

It has come to our notice recently that members of St Peter's are not always aware of other members of our congregation or community who are unwell or have particular problems. In addition to the Prayer Board, the Church Council has agreed to set up an email list of those who are ill or in need, to be available only to people who wish to be included and are willing to pray for others. Jackie Moulson has offered to co-ordinate this list, and to circulate names of unwell members to others. Please contact her at

jacquelinemoulson@btinternet.com

or on 01986 875457 if you would like to be included.

### **Pop-In Parlour 5th January**

The next Pop-In Parlour will be at 12 noon on Friday 5th January, with home-made soup and bread & cheese. Come and enjoy good food and (hopefully) good conversation!

And, for next month,

### **Race Night 3rd February**

The horses are coming out of the stables again for a Race Night at Holton & Blyford Village Hall, at 7pm for 7.30 on Saturday 3rd February. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, and come prepared to buy a horse, to bet on a horse, or even to ride a horse! Instructions on riding will be given, but it's very easy to learn.

Tickets £4 from the Bookshop or ring Dot on 01986 872350. Please support this very enjoyable evening while raising money for Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund.

## **Linstead Correspondent Malcolm Heath**

01986 785289

[www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk)

NOW THE NAÏVE AMONGST US MAY be forgiven for thinking that everything changes with a new year. Well, I am here to tell you that apart from struggling with remembering to write a new year as well as a new month, nothing does. There are those amongst you who think that I am milking it, so to speak but, on opening the curtains yesterday morning, what did I see?

So, a new year, plus ça change, plus ça même chose. Well, having disabused

you of any lingering illusions, may I wish you a very happy New Year.

THE 8th GREAT INTERNATIONAL Beetle drive was another humungous success, with over 40 enthusiastic beetle drivers taking part.



Actually to win a Beetle Drive is a not necessarily something that one would put on one's C.V. mostly because there is more luck than skill involved. If that sounds like sour grapes, you are right, I didn't win.



### THE GRAND LNSTEAD QUIZ NIGHT

is

**On Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018  
at 7.00 p.m.**

**at Linstead Village Hall.**

Entry Fee £10 for a team  
of up to four.

£25 to the Winning Team

*In aid of Village Hall funds*

**Light refreshments provided  
but bring your own liquid  
brain stimulant.**

**To enter a team, please contact:  
Pauline (01986 785347)  
Or Vicky (785167)**



But heartiest congratulations to the team of intrepid beetle drivers who did. An innovation this year was, in addition to the normal joker card (to double one's score) there was also a Trump card, bearing an image of the present leader of the Free World (gulp!) which, when played, halved ones score! Many thanks to our Beetle Master, Jeremy Leicester, who conducted affairs with great panache. An evening of great fun and, if you missed it this time, don't make the same mistake next again.

CHEDISTON & LNSTEAD W.I. celebrated Christmas in fine style at the Spexhall Huntsman & Hounds.

Their first meeting of the New Year will be 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th January at Linstead village hall. The meeting will feature 'Cut and Stick' Please bring a pair of scissors and some unwanted magazines. As we



enter a new year it is worth saying that their programme for the coming year is varied and interesting. New members and guests are always welcome.

NOW ANOTHER UNWELCOME FACT about a New Year is the everyone seems to have their hands out. The Linstead Letter is no exception. But, for the very modest outlay of £12, you will receive, hand delivered, a copy of the Linstead Letter every month. As a bonus, you will receive wrapped around it, A copy of the Blyth Valley Times, which comes absolutely free! Roger Wilkinson is looking forward to receiving your sub.

NOT ONLY DOES LNSTEAD MAJOR in the arcane art of Beetle Driving but it is also a hotbed of academic endeavour. So please put this date in your diaries. Always enjoyable and, of course, it is the taking part, rather than the taking part. But than I would say that, wouldn't I?

WHILST ON THE TOPIC OF SUBS AND fun as well, subscriptions are now due for the Linstead (& Chediston) 100 Club. This is a simple and enjoyable way of supporting our irreplaceable local churches. Each number costs £12 per year and you can have as many numbers as you want. You may even win a modest prize. If you would pass your subscription to Cecilia Metherell for Linstead, Pat Mattinson for Chediston, or any member of the P.C.C. If you haven't subscribed before, now, in January is the time to do it.

SERVICES IN JANUARY WILL comprise Matins on the 14th and 28th. On the 21st we visit Chediston for our monthly joint service. All will be at 9.30 a.m.

#### ROTAS FOR JANUARY

DATE: FLOWERS & CLEANING

7th Team Eucharist at Halesworth  
14th Mrs A. Frost & Mrs V. Bish  
21st No Service  
28th Mrs P. Keable & Mr D. Keable

## Spexhall Correspondent Roxie Kett

**01986 781319**

<http://spexhall.onesuffolk.net/Home/>

A very happy new year from all at St Peter's Spexhall. Roxie is currently occupied getting ready for the arrival of Mel and Roxie's second child, so the Spexhall News will reappear next month.

## Thorington Correspondent Trish Gower

**01502 478267**

Greetings from Thorington PCC and we hope we will have seen some readers at the Annual Carol service on Xmas Eve; if not wishing you all a Very Blessed and Happy New Year.. and more news next month following our PCC meeting I am sure..

Trish Gower

## Wenhaston Correspondent Margaret Goldstone

**01502 478378**

It was good to have a Stall at the Village Bazaar at the beginning of December where the Hall was gaily decorated and packed with many eager shoppers. Thank you to everyone who supported our Stall and to all those who donated gifts for us to sell, we raised £127.00.

Our Christmas festivities continued with our Carol Service, always a joyful event., and on Christmas Eve we worshipped together at our Christmas Eucharist celebrating the Birthday of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating the Church for Christmas which as always looked lovely.

On Friday 22nd. we held our Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall for the elderly folks who live alone in the Village and it was good to be part of this happy gathering. The number of friends who are joining us for Lunch every month is

slowly increasing and we are always very pleased to welcome anybody else who would like to come. Thank you to everyone who has cooked and helped the two Margarets in so many ways during the past year, without you we would not be able to have the Lunches.

So to a New Year when our Prayers will continue for Love and Peace in every region of our troubled World remembering especially all those who are suffering as a result of Wars.

We wish all our Readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

#### **SIDESPEOPLE IN JANUARY**

7th 9.30am TEAM EUCHARIST AT ST. MARY'S HALESWORTH

No Service at St. Peter's

14th 9.30am PARISH EUCHARIST  
Clive Watson

21st 10.30am COVENANT SERVICE AT THE METHODIST CHAPPEL

No Service at St. Peter's

28th 11:15am PAUSE FOR THOUGHT  
Valerie Ellis

#### **CHURCH CLEANING IN JANUARY**

14th Jenny Jeffrey & Sue Gow

28th June and Trevor Tate

#### **WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB**

A very Happy New Year to everyone from Jean and all the Members. There is no meeting in January and Jean looks forward to seeing you all in February. For anymore information please phone Jean Spindler 01502 478317

#### **WENHASTON MOTHER'S UNION**

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party with Margaret G at Spindleberry on the 13th. December when we will enjoy fellowship, refreshments and possibly sing some Carols.

Our Mystery Parcels Stall at the Christmas Bazaar raised £46.05 for funds. Again, many thanks for all the interesting looking parcels - they were very popular.

Now to the New Year - the first meeting on Wednesday 10th. January will be in the church at 2.30pm. for our Corporate Eucharist followed by our AGM. It has been a good year, and do come along and hear what has been achieved.

Margaret G and all the Members of Wenhaston Mother's Union wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and peaceful New Year.

*Margaret Bloomfield*

As the Leader of the Wenhaston M U I would just like to say how well all the members did this year with their generous contributions to our Christmas Projects for Charities.

We were able to donate sixteen Shoeboxes full of Gifts etc. for Families and Children in Eastern Europe.

For the first time, this year we also collected Toiletries for the Lighthouse Refuge in Ipswich.

Attractive Bags were beautifully sown by several members and these were then filled with the essential items needed by ladies going to the Refuge with absolutely nothing. I was delighted that we were able to take twenty eight bags to The Refuge and this was a wonderful effort by all the members.

*Margaret Goldstone  
Branch Leader.*

#### **Footpath Walking**

A happy and healthy year in 2018, with good walking weather, to all our friends. A morning walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 2 January. On Tuesday 16 January Heather Hammond will lead a walk round Blythburgh: meet in Blythburgh church car park at 10am, with lunch afterwards at The Star Inn Wenhaston.

*Heather Phillips  
01502478545*

## **Wissett Correspondent Nick Evans**

**01986 872372**

**nickandmaggie@btinternet.com**

Sharp frosts now, and further testing of the church's new heating arrangements, especially as we have several evening services in the next month. The extra service in the otherwise quiet ecclesiastical month of January is our **candlelit Epiphany Service at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

We shall then be able to go on to the **Wissett New Year Party** in the Village Hall on the same evening. It runs from 7.00 to 11.00 p.m., and the food this time is on a bring and share basis: please telephone Louise Harris, 873966, to discuss what you would like to bring, so that we have a good various menu.

The last week of November was a busy one here, starting with an extra commemoration of Charles Jackson, who died at Cambrai on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1917, by way of a quarter peal - 40 minutes of continuously changing ringing. (Ringers have already had a preliminary warning from Grand Central UK Ringing HQ of plans for a great effort next year to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>.) Two days later, the Christmas Wine and Food Tasting on 25<sup>th</sup>, in the ideal 'party barn' at Hill House, was very enjoyable. The wine and food were very generously donated, and Rob Chase, in great form, entertained and educated us with his amazing knowledge, also most kindly given. On St. Andrew's day the Patronal Festival was blessed by Michael Pester with a vast number of fish sandwiches. And now the fun of the festive season is building up.

The roadworks have gone away for their Christmas holidays, and normal traffic has returned to this temporarily quiet spot, for now honoured by the speed indicators, which will once again record the usual high scores.

#### **SPEXHALL AND WISSETT WI**

Our AGM was in October, preceded by a produce show, with members showing their culinary skills in various classes.

These ranged from a hearty winter soup to a summer drink, chutneys and seasonal fruits, something for everyone. Glenda Page was the overall winner. June Laws was re elected as President, with Linda Adams continuing as Secretary and Margaret Long as Treasurer.

In November Helen and Steve Murray from Artbox, at Chediston came to speak to us about their work with people with special needs. They were an enthusiastic and inspiring couple,

who brought a variety of art work with them to showcase what is possible with a little encouragement. The people they work with have a variety of special needs, but what they produce is amazing and undoubtedly helps their self esteem and enjoyment of life.

Our Annual Stir up of Christmas Puddings went on tour this year, and was a success. At Ilkeshall St Andrew Fayre many ready cooked pud's were sold, as well as the uncooked mix which was made on the day, likewise at Wenhaston Fayre customers bought our pud's.

Our Christmas lunch is at the Golf Club with wrapped presents to be brought for the Day Centre. The next meeting is in January, in a members house, and takes the form of a Desert Island Disc evening – who knows what music members will choose and why?

We look forward to a varied programme in the New Year and should anyone care to come along and see what we do please contact Linda (Secretary) on 01986874765.

Seasons good wishes to all from Spexhall and Wissett WI

### From the Diocesan eNews: attention all PCC Treasurers

**Ecclesiastical will be sending out renewal notices offering a discount to PCCs in the Diocese.**

**If you have recently received your renewal papers which don't show this discount you should receive a revised renewal pack shortly but ring Ecclesiastical on 0345 777 3322 if in doubt. The discount is available on both ParishGuard and ParishPlus policies. Be careful about tying the PCC into a long term commitment without a break clause and always get two quotes.**

# Parish Share

## St Mary's Church, Halesworth

**This article is primarily for St Mary's, Halesworth, but is relevant to all our parishes.**

At the last PCC meeting, we agreed to ask St Mary's congregation and our many supporters to help us bridge the gap in our Parish Share payments. We've usually had a 'Cheque Book Sunday' in Advent, but this year we're asking for help over Christmas and the New Year.



Not counting capital works and necessary maintenance, Parish Share is one of every parish's largest outgoings. It's not to be seen as a payment or a tax, but as a gift to enable the work of clergy across the Diocese as well as diocesan staff and services. Yes - the Parish Share supports our own clergy, but it also supports every priest in the diocese, and makes ministry possible. In Parish Share, we show our care for one another.

The two keys to Christian (or any charitable) Giving are **GENEROSITY** and **REALISM**. Generosity is a response of thankfulness for all that we have, all that we are, and all that we've been given. Realism is an acknowledgement that the wellbeing of the Church Communities across the Blyth Valley, the Diocese and England is in our hands. Church of England parishes receive no central funding. We have it on good authority that an *average* of £10 per week from each person who cares about the life and work of the Church would mean we could cover our day to day costs and get on with other important things. We can't stress strongly enough that this is an *average*. Some will be able to give less, to much more. (I reckon I'm bit above average, so I give £15 per week.)

St Mary's Halesworth has many financial pressures upon it, and is about £10,000 short in terms of Parish Share. Anything given by the end of January will count towards the 2017 Share. If you feel able to help St Mary's, or any of our parishes, gifts may be given to clergy or churchwardens, cheques payable to Halesworth (or which ever) PCC.

If you want to give by bank transfer, Halesworth's account is with Barclay's: Sort Code **20-92-08** Account Number **80020206**. Please ask other PCC treasurers for those of other parishes. Please tell the appropriate treasurer. If you pay tax at standard or higher rate, please ask to complete a simple **GIFT AID** form.

With my thanks in anticipation,

*Edward Rennard.*  
Team Rector of the Blyth Valley.

## ***I'm a committed atheist, but my child has become religious – and I'm proud of her for challenging my indoctrination***

I remember being taken aback when her choice of memento from the gift shop at Durham Cathedral was not a fluffy toy but a carved wooden cross.

In a parallel universe, the version of me that didn't choose to send her daughters to a Church of England school is having slothful lie-ins on Sunday mornings following a slightly gluttonous night on the prosecco lusting after James McAvoy and feeling huge pride that she managed it without a hangover.

Instead, while I'm not losing any sleep over how many deadly sins I ticked off in a twelve hour period, I am leaping out of bed in time to get my oldest daughter – Una – to church, Googling "what is a confirmation" and making arrangements for Father Michael to pop round for tea.

My partner Ian and I are happy atheists (or perhaps agnostics, I'm never too sure) with some strong negative feelings regarding organised religions, coupled with a cheery tolerance of people with faith.

So as Una, now 12, has increasingly embraced religion, things have got progressively weird for us.

We chose our local C of E primary because we liked it better than the non-faith schools and I would never send her to a Catholic school. (I've been baptised a Catholic and seen enough Catholicism to know I didn't want that for her.) We liked it because it had an olde-worlde village school feel, and because they had music lessons which we thought was important. But I refused to con my way in with a supporting letter from some local clergy like a lot of the mums I knew, so we didn't expect to make the cut. Only we did.

Ian and I worried about religious indoctrination of our four-year-old but knew we would counter it with our own views, and both of us had been to C of E schools as children and survived the experience sans faith.

They do more praying in class and much more faith-led teaching in assemblies than we were exposed to, but they're not too preachy. And it's a very accepting and friendly school attended by children of several



different faiths. If a child said they didn't believe in God I don't suppose they would be singled out in any way. But Una has really got into it.

I remember years ago being taken aback when her choice of memento from the gift shop at Durham Cathedral was not a fluffy toy but a carved wooden cross, but we would never tell her she couldn't have it or she wasn't allowed to believe in God. We were just very open about our own beliefs and encouraged her to ask questions. We and the school taught her about a range of different religions.

And we've been clear that the choice is hers to find her own way, and that we will support her in that. We've also brought the girls up not to eat meat but have told them when they get older they may choose to eat differently. Both of them have tried meat – with our blessing – outside the home. We've felt our role is to open them up to opportunities and experiences so they can learn for themselves what they like, what they're good at and where they fit.

Nevertheless, Una's leaning more towards the church has been a surprise and has thrown up some awkward and uncomfortable situations.

For secondary schools our first choice was an out-of-borough academy which we didn't get. Second choice – ours and Una's – was another C of E. They are oversubscribed and rigorous about needing support from your church. But I talked with the headmaster about how I felt since Una was religious, my own lack of faith shouldn't hold her back and he agreed. We spoke with a local vicar who agreed if we would support Una's faith, then she would support

her application to the school.

So we did. Una loves it. She gets a lot out of her faith and the community she's joined. When she was younger I would attend as conscience allowed. The people are lovely. They're friendly and welcoming, and when it feels too close to hypocritical and makes me squirm then I politely excuse myself and leave Una to her worship. Her best friend's mum – who will soon be her godmother – watches her for me.

I never expected to be arranging a baptism for her so she can be confirmed with her friends, nor inviting Father Michael round to chat over a cuppa; I had to steer the conversation away from science before Ian, with a physics degree, got too animated. But we all approach it with common sense and Una's best interests at heart.

It seemed obvious that my role was to support her journey to discover herself and I didn't consider it until a Muslim friend said she thought it was admirable. "If a child wanted to explore a religion other than their own I don't know too many families who would support that," she said. Since childhood indoctrination is one of the things I like least about religion, I'm proud of Una for challenging my own atheist indoctrination of her.

*Siobhan O'Neill  
with thanks to The Independent  
13 March 2017*

*For a missing sentence that might make certain old ladies faint in horror, see:*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/christianity-children-confirmation-schooling-atheist-parenting-a7627086.html>



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## Halesworth Foodbank

We are here to help anyone who is struggling to find enough to eat!

The Foodbank operates as part of Waveney Foodbanks, and is open on Wednesdays at St Mary's Church between 10.45 and 12 noon each week.

Usually people come with a red voucher which entitles them to a box of food. The red vouchers can be obtained from the following :

### Halesworth Library

**CAB at the Volunteers Centre on Friday mornings.**

**Children's Centre – for those with children under 5 years**

**Edgar Sewter School for those with children at the school**

**Social Workers**

**or by letter from a health agency.**

If none of these options are open then please still come to the Foodbank! We will not turn anyone in need away, but will listen to your story over a cuppa and give you emergency supplies.

### Donations

**Donations of non perishable foods, in date, to the foodbank are much needed.**

**They can be left at the following places:**

**St Mary's Church;**

**St Edmunds Church;**

**United Reformed Church;**

**Wenhaston Methodist Church;**

**Wenhaston Post Office; Wenhaston St Peter's;**

**Holton St Peter's;**

**Spexhall St Peter's;**

**Rosedale Funeral Directors;**

**Woolnough Funeral Directors;**

**Hideout Café;**

**or The Hub, Huntingfield.**

As well as food donations we need toiletries, Cat and dog Food, tin openers laundry powders and bottles of baby food and products.

The foodbank could not operate without the generous support of the Community. So thank you everyone for helping others who are in need.

Pam Bayliss

Organiser for Halesworth and Beccles Foodbanks.



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## ZAMBIA UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

For the record, I never actually said there would be a third book relating our experiences in Zambia. Yet even as the second book was released way back in 2011, people were asking when a third book would appear . . . is there perhaps an avid audience out there eager to read yet more of our escapades in darkest Africa?

Then, in 2011, during my longest trip to Africa since leaving in 1976, an idea began germinating that what remained was the untold story of our personal life in Zambia. Yes, unbelievably, Bob and I did manage a life apart from the roller coaster of doing charity work and this is what 'Zambia Up Close and Personal' is about. And, though the manuscript has been dabbled with and put aside many times over recent years, because of our currently somewhat 'precarious' personal circumstances, I felt the time had finally come for it to see the light of day. It is dedicated to Bob, my long-suffering husband and travel companion, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Not sure if the book is for you? Here are a few tasters to whet your appetite and hopefully encourage you to purchase a copy and read some more . . .

"Look out, elephant!" I call out as an enormous bull, ears flapping, trunk waving and trumpeting loudly stampedes out from the surrounding bush. "Go, go, go!" Ali and I chorus together. With seconds to spare before the elephant reaches us, Bob's foot hits the accelerator. Leaving behind a cloud of dust, the vehicle zooms out of harm's way. In the wing mirror, I watch the entire herd emerge from surrounding bush in full charge stampeding down the road behind us. "Did you get a picture?" Bob has the gall to ask.

*'No, I did not!'*

"The young policeman is getting into his stride. "This person is disputing my judgement," he announces. "An infringement is an infringement."

"Officer, you cannot treat these persons like this!" Mr Mbai joins the fray.

Even Mr Chama joins in. "These people are from the UK, they are helping the people of our country."

The young policeman is having none of it. "Everyone in this vehicle is in cahoots. I have no alternative but to ask you to proceed to the police station. Myself I will accompany you there." The officious young policeman opens the rear door and squeezes into the back seat. Just as well he is small, it's already crowded in there. "Drive on!" he commands.

By now, I'm shaking. "Are you . . . arresting me?"

"Indeed, yes, that is the case."

I can't trust myself to drive any further. "Then my husband can drive." I get out the vehicle slamming the door, praying Bob doesn't lose his rag, worse, offer the policeman twenty pin to forget the matter.'

'Feeling suddenly faint, I toss a quick prayer heavenwards for protection against all things visible and invisible, before tucking in with feigned gusto to goat stew, washed down with tea made from freshly boiled river water, telling myself, a few mouthfuls will suffice to see duty done.

"Let's hope we're not in one of those African regions where eyeballs and testicles are considered the ultimate delicacy," Bob mutters under his breath.

I gag on a glob of goat stew, hair still attached to the larger lumps. "You are joking?"

"Only for the most honoured guests, naturally!" he sniggers.'

If you thought you'd read everything Bob and I got up to in the first two books, then here is a third book that reveals more of our escapades in Zambia. So, may you once again laugh and cry along with us, as we face yet more trials and adventures, this time getting 'up close and personal' with both people and animals in Zambia, as well as battling with vehicles and scary situations that at times defy description, all the while watching our family grow and enter a third generation in Africa. I often said, "If I hadn't kept a journal, I never would have believed the half of what we got up to!" How true this has turned out to be!

Happy Reading!

Copies can be purchased directly from Moira Cooke price £7.99 of which 25% will be donated to Cancer Research and Caring Bridge. Email: moiracooke@belmoor.plus.com or phone 01502 478503

Alternatively, copies will shortly be available from New Generation Publishing, Amazon or other book sellers.

Moira Cooke

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# Calendar for Year 2018 (United Kingdom)

## January

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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## February

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## March

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## April

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## May

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## June

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## July

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## August

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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☉: 7 ♀: 15 ☾: 22 ☾: 29

1 Jan New Year's Day  
1 Mar St. David's Day (Wales)  
30 Mar Good Friday  
1 Apr Easter Sunday  
2 Apr Easter Monday (ENG, Guernsey, Jersey, NIR, WAL)

2 Apr Easter Monday (Scotland)  
23 Apr St. George's Day  
7 May Early May Bank Holiday  
28 May Spring Bank Holiday  
9 Jun Queen's Birthday  
27 Aug Summer Bank Holiday (ENG, Guernsey, Jersey, NIR, WAL)

31 Oct Halloween  
5 Nov Guy Fawkes Day  
11 Nov Remembrance Sunday  
25 Dec Christmas Day  
26 Dec Boxing Day