

Blyth Valley Times

A Service of the Church for our Local Communities

November 2019

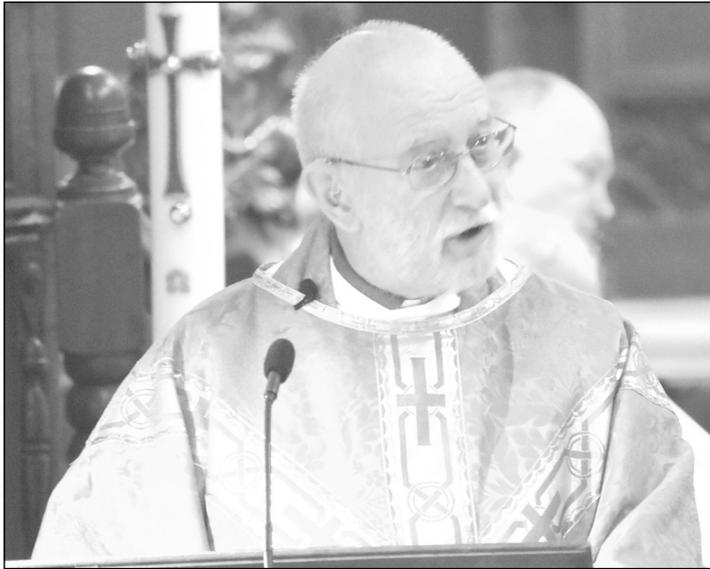
Volume 40

Issue 11

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50th Anniversary Eucharist at St Mary's Halesworth



At 10am on Sunday 6th October, approximately 50 people, including some family members with children, assembled for the celebration of the Team Eucharist. The Eucharist for the 16th Sunday after Trinity was presided over by the Revd Malcolm Walkey. Alison Alder filled the role of deacon. Gwen and Simon Woolner and Rosemarie Mallett acted as acolytes and servers.

Malcolm was celebrating a particular milestone in his career as priest, having been ordained priest almost exactly 50 years ago in Leicester Cathedral. The service proceeded as usual but with friends taking the part of readers, Anthony Attfield and Jill Hewlett; John Hewlett led the intercessions and an assembly of friends took up the offertory. Malcolm preached on the Gospel of the day, Luke 17 v.5-10, focussing on Jesus's words about only needing a little faith for God to be able to do great things and the parable of the slaves/servants – a lesson in humility.

The service, supported musically by Jason and the Team Choir, moved along well with hearty singing and forthright responses from the congregation. The climax, of course, was the giving of Holy Communion when Alison joined by Janet (Walkey) assisted Malcolm in distributing the body and blood of Christ to everyone present.

Afterwards, everyone was invited to stay on to sample Gwen's celebration cake in glorious gold, and to drink (thanks to Jason) the bubbly, prosecco and cava – take your pick!

Malcolm would like to thank everyone who was able to share in the celebration with him and for making it a memorable occasion. He sends his grateful thanks for all the cards and congratulations he received.



Malcolm and Janet Walkey with their son Simon, his wife Jo and Harry and Emily

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

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www.blythvalleychurches.org.uk

Team Calendar - November/December

NOVEMBER

Fri 1	12:00	Pop-in Parlour, St Peter's, Holton
Sun 3	14:30	Service of Remembrance, St Mary's Halesworth
Sat 9/Sun 10	11:00 - 16:00	Walpole Winter Craft Barn, Hill House Farm, Walpole
Tues 12	14:00	Southwold Arts Society Lecture
Tues 12	14:30	Chediston & Linstead WI, Linstead Village Hall
Tues 12	19:15	Halesworth WI AGM, St Mary's Church Hall
Wed 13	12:30	FOSM Lunchtime Recital, St Mary's Halesworth
Sat 16	10:00	St Peter's Wenhaston, Grand Garage Book Sale, Spindleberry, Narrow Way, Wenhaston
Sat 16	10:00	Craft Fair, Holton & Blyford Village Hall
Sat 16	15:00	Explore 2! St Peter's, Spexhall
Sat 16	19:00	Beetle Drive, Linstead Village Hall
Tues 19	14:00	SEFWI Celebration Concert, Trinity Pk, Ipswich
Wed 20	14:45	Halesworth <i>dementia</i> Carers' Fund film - <i>Yesterday</i> - The Cut, Halesworth
Sat 23	10:30	Cancer Research Christmas Fair, Holton & Blyford Village Hall
Sat 30	10:00	St Peter's Christmas Fair, Holton & Blyford VH
Sat 30	10:00	Linstead Market, St Mary's Church Hall, H/wth
Sat 30	11:00	Christmas Fair, Bramfield

DECEMBER

Sun 1	15:00	United Advent Tea, St Mary's Church Hall
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FULL COLOUR *BVTimes* FOR DECEMBER

ATTENTION *BVTimes* contributors! The December edition of *Blyth Valley Times* will be printed in **full colour**. If you have photographs to accompany your editorials, please could you forward colour versions of these for possible inclusion.

I am *very* grateful to those contributors who send their articles in ahead of, or on, deadline date, this greatly assists me with the production of *BVTimes*. **Please note:** Deadline date for the December edition is **Saturday 9th November**.

Many thanks, Carolyn

Team Worship - Better Together

Sunday 3rd November

10:00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth

Sunday 1st December

10:00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth

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Sunday Readings

3 Nov, All Saints

Isaiah 56.3-8
(or 2 Esdras 2.42-end)
Psalm 33.1-5
Hebrews 12.18-24
Matthew 5.1-12

17 Nov, The second Sunday before Advent

Malachi 4.1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3.6-13
Luke 21.5-19

24 Nov, Christ the King

Jeremiah 23.1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1.11-20
Luke 23.33-43

10 Nov, The third Sunday before Advent

Job 19.23-27a
Psalm 17.1-9 (or 17.1-8)
2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-end
Luke 20.27-38
(or readings for Remembrance Sunday)

1 Dec, The first Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2.1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13.11-end
Matthew 24.36-44

Weekday Services & Related Events

EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel, St Mary's Halesworth.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10:00 Midweek Eucharist at Halesworth.
10:30 Church Café in St Mary's Halesworth for all - including those just passing!
10:30 Foodbank, St Mary's Halesworth.
10:45 Church Mice for parents and pre-school children - all-age outside term-time.
ALL WELCOME.

EVERY THURSDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer (BCP) at Bramfield.

EVERY FRIDAY

09:00 Morning Prayer at St Peter's Holton.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 16 FOR CONTACT DETAILS

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

Sunday Worship in the Blyth Valley in November

Year C TRACK 2	Date: 3rd November Sunday: All Saints TEAM service COLOUR: RED	Date: 10th November Sunday: Remembrance COLOUR: RED	Date: 17th November Sunday: Proper 28 COLOUR: RED	Date: 24th November Sunday: Christ the King COLOUR: RED	Date: 1st December Sunday: First in Advent TEAM service COLOUR: PURPLE
BLYFORD ALL SAINTS	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	To Holton or Wenhaston Remembrance	09.30 to Wenhaston	09.30 Morning Worship Linda/ Alison C	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
BRAMFIELD ST ANDREW	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	11.00 Remembrance Robert	11.15 Eucharist (BCP) David	Services available across the Team	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
CHEDISTON ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	10.45 Remembrance Edward	09.30 Village Service at Linstead	09.30 Eucharist Malcolm W	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HALESWORTH ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist C Jane, P Edward, D Alison 14.30 Annual Service of Remembrance for those we loved Edward and Jane	08.00 Eucharist (BCP) Jane 15.00 Town Remembrance Service Edward/Jane	09.30 Parish Eucharist Edward	08.00 Eucharist (BCP) Vic 09.30 Parish Eucharist David	10.00 Team Eucharist C Vic, P David, D Linda
HOLTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	10.50 Remembrance John	11.15 Iona Morning Worship Vic	11.15 Eucharist Jane	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
LINSTEAD ST MARGARET	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	09.30 Remembrance Malcolm H	09.30 Village Service with Chediston Linda	09.30 Eucharist Jane	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
SPEXHALL ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	10.45 Remembrance David	11.15 to Iona Morning Worship	11.15 Eucharist Edward	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
THORINGTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	Services available across the Team			10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
WENHASTON ST PETER	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	10.45 Remembrance at War Memorial 11.00 in Church Alison	09.30 Morning Prayer Jane	11.15 Pause for Thought with coffee Alison	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
WISSETT ST ANDREW	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	10.45 Remembrance Jane	09.30 Eucharist Malcolm W	09.30 Breakfast Church Edward	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HEVENINGHAM ST MARGARET	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	10.45 Remembrance Linda	Services available across the Team	09.30 Eucharist (BCP) Vic	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HUNTINGFIELD ST MARY	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth	To Heveningham Remembrance	Services available across the Team	Services available across the Team	10.00 Team Eucharist at Halesworth
HIGHFIELD				11.15 Eucharist	

Holy Church?

On the right is a picture from September 2013, with me celebrating the Eucharist, and with Anna as deacon. In September, I told you that I would be working my way through the "Four Marks of the Church" - ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC. Now it's the turn of HOLY. "Holy", these days, is a difficult word. We think of someone who is a "holy Joe", or "holier than thou" - both of which have very negative connotations.

So what does it mean to say that the Church is holy? The word *holy* translates the Greek word *hieros* and the Latin word *sanctum*. Both refer to people or things that are set apart for the worship and service of God. Ultimately, only God is holy, and all holiness comes from God. The Church is holy because she is God's agent, bringing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to bear on the world and on all humanity, for our salvation.

The Church (that's us) is the Body of Christ on earth. As St Paul says in I Corinthians 12, "Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it". Christians come in all shapes and sizes, and different Christians are called to be and to do different things, to exercise different Christian ministries. All us are baptised into the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. All of us receive the Body and Blood of Christ (all that Christ is) when we receive Holy Communion at the Eucharist. As Paul goes on to say, we have many different roles within the One Body. Because we are drawn into the Life of Christ, we are called to be holy - set apart, consecrated for God's service. That does not mean we can give ourselves airs and graces or play at "holier than thou". But it does lay on us a solemn responsibility to live our lives for Christ, for each other and for all others.

The root of the word *holy* goes back to the Old English word *haleg*. Not having the aversion some academics have towards Wikipedia, the on-line dictionary, *haleg*, it tells us, meant "uninjured, sound, healthy, entire, complete". From the same root comes the Scottish word, *hale*, which is to do with "health, happiness and wholeness." The modern words *health* and *wholeness* are certainly related.

As we are invited to receive Christ in Holy Communion at the Eucharist, these words are often said:

God's holy gifts

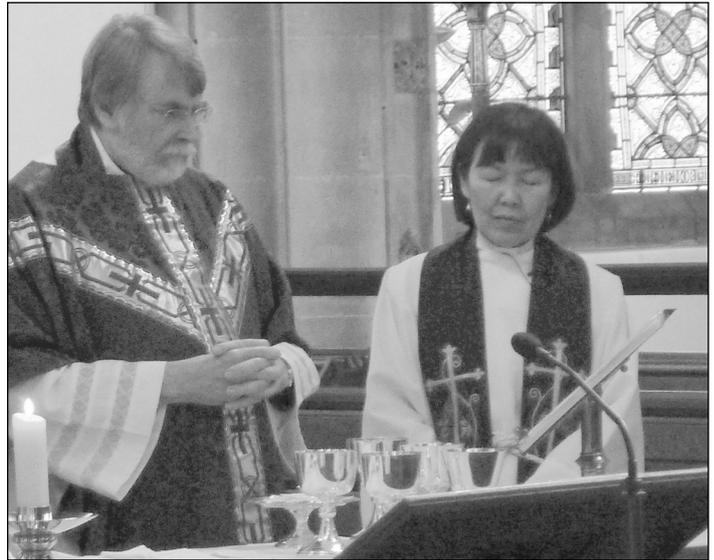
for God's holy People:

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

We can call the gifts God gives the Church *holy* because they are set apart for our good and for the service of others. There is the holy water of Baptism, bringing us to new life in Christ and in fulfilment of the command to baptise (Go into all the world...). There is holy oil for



baptism, for confirmation, for ordination, and for healing. There is the holy Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood which gives life to us and life to the world. Material things can be holy because they mediate, through our earthly senses, the Divine. It is also possible to attribute holiness to objects which speak of God, such as crosses and icons.

Here's the story of the burning bush, from Exodus 3:

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

The ground is holy ground, on which Moses takes off his sandals, because it's where God chooses to dwell. It's God's People that make buildings and places holy because they set them aside and offer prayer there perhaps for many generations.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Christian theologian and martyr hung by the Nazis in Flossenbürg in 1944, said that Christians must be *in* the world but not *of* the world. We are called to stand firmly with Christ and our fellow Christians (about 2.2 billion of us) but we are also called to stand with all humanity the world over (about 7.5 billion of us). We cannot afford a false and hypocritical holiness, but together we can be God's Holy Church reaching out to God's beloved world.

Edward.



News from our Sister Churches

ST EDMUND'S RC CHURCH, HALESWORTH

"Dark November brings the fog" says the old poem about the months of the year, and we can be sure of cold weather and shortening days as Christmas looms on the horizon with all its extra expenses - an additional problem for a nation that has largely turned its back on the true meaning of this beautiful festival. Whatever the latest pronouncements on climate change, we can have little praise for the state of our world. As the eleventh month of the year 2019 draws us further into yet more strife and violence in various parts of the world - in the Middle East, Turkey and Syria, Hong Kong - and here at home the rise in knife crime, not to mention the threat of serious shortages of food and medicines if we leave the European Union without a 'deal' - and possibly *with* a 'deal', I have no great hopes of a reasonable outcome where the rules are dictated by greed. And wherever you look, it's the innocent who suffer, the poor of the world, the families and children who don't deserve to flee in terror from powerful enemies. Where can we turn for comfort, for an explanation of the unfairness of life? While searching the Old and New Testaments and praying for guidance, I came across a name I remembered from Sunday School, and an excellent but rather eccentric teacher who introduced us to Habakkuk. (*Who?* I hear you cry.) Yes, Habakkuk. He was one of a group of minor prophets at the close of the Old Testament when Jerusalem fell into enemy hands, and Habakkuk was bewildered by the misfortune that had befallen his nation, and God's apparent lack of care for them. He may have had to flee with his countrymen, and lose the livestock that was his livelihood, and the homegrown produce of his land.

"The fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls." (Habakkuk 3 v.17). In this catalogue of disasters, Habakkuk echoes other prophets of his times - Job, Jonah, Ezekiel and others who all tell us that we must rise above present discontents, not to question the ways of the Almighty, but to trust in him at all times and in all circumstances.

So what is Habakkuk's response?

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hind's feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places." (Habakkuk 3 v.18 & 19).

I remember our teacher reading this out, and exclaiming, 'Good old Habakkuk!'

Dear friends, as it was in Habakkuk's time, so it is today. Nobody said the path of righteousness was easy, but in doing the Lord's will, we find our sure reward.

Margaret Holt

HALESWORTH & BRAMFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Dear Friends,

I was recently reading from Matthew 11 (also in Luke 7) the occasion when John the Baptist (from prison) sent messengers to Jesus. Their question was straightforward, even simple and full of expectation of what God would do:

"Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

"The one who was to come". A slightly indirect way of referring to the long standing prophetic expectation that the Messiah would come? Yes, but stronger in view of the fact that those posing the question were John's disciples. They had followed their teacher whose entire ministry was to prepare the way of the Lord (quoting Isaiah).

The Messiah expectation, as John and his followers understood it, really was more than just God's special messenger but God himself breaking in to human experience! The Lord was coming. So their question amounts to "Are you God?"

The second part of their question (if not) was "should we expect someone else?" What a strong sense of certainty that the time was right! Even if Jesus wasn't the one, whoever was would soon be apparent!

Jesus could have given a simple "yes" in reply. Or even "I am" as he answered the high priest at his trial (Mark 14 v.62). Claiming to be the Messiah was treated as blasphemy but actually pronouncing the Name of God (as given to Moses from the burning bush) - "YHWH" (pronounced Yahweh and translated "I am") all the more so!

But instead, Jesus helped them see reality by pointing to the experiences of those around him: sight for the blind, healing, good news - the expectations of the Messiah's ministry as set out in Isaiah 29, 35 and 61.

The Messiah's presence at that time was in bodily form and Jesus was able to send the messengers back with a report of the evidence. But he also went on to say that he expects such ministry to continue through the church and that the Holy Spirit would enable this. One of the things we are working on is to prayerfully seek God and explore how we (not just our local churches or even Churches Together in the Blyth Valley, but the whole Church of Christ) can be open to let the Holy Spirit continue such ministry through us. We really need to pray for more evidence of the Messiah's ongoing presence.

Blessings

Jon



The
United
Reformed
Church

A Curate's view - "From a different perspective"

As many of you will know, my circumstances have changed radically in the last few weeks with unexpected results. I arrived at St Mary's, Halesworth to do Morning Prayer in my wheelchair. I am accustomed to saying Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel but it is now inaccessible to me; so it had to be said in the Choir. This begs the question about our Team being an inclusive church: what kind of welcome do we offer disabled people?

Another thing I have noticed being in a wheelchair is that people do not look at you, they look over your head. Next time you pass someone in a wheelchair, I urge you to smile – it will make such a difference.

It is not all bad news. During the last few weeks I have been overwhelmed by the love and support I have received. The hospital care has been wonderful and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards and visits. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Revd Linda Berry

How should Christians respond to the climate crisis facing our world?

I wonder how you reacted to the Extinction Rebellion protests, which, as I write, are taking place in London and other major cities around the world. Many of the media, and many in government, have condemned the demonstrations, as they intentionally include actions which break the law and disrupt the lives of others. Moreover, the protests have put extra pressure on a police force which is already very stretched. Were you outraged by the demonstrations, or did you wonder what had driven people to risk their freedom by participating in these protests?

You may not have heard of Christian Climate Action, which is part of the Extinction Rebellion Movement. During the October protests, they established a Faith Bridge, which started by occupying Lambeth Bridge, and was then moved to Trafalgar Square. The Faith Bridge supporters came from different Christian denominations and from other faiths. Among the activities planned for the Faith Bridge were baptisms, a daily Eucharist, a contemplative prayer pool, Taize services and foot washing sessions. The Community of Aidan and Hilda led liturgical worship, the Church Army hosted poetry workshops while development charities Christian Aid, Tearfund, and Cafod led a prayer vigil.

One of the members of Christian Climate Action, Holly-Anna Petersen, explained why she was taking part:

"Shutting down roads around Westminster may seem like a drastic step but we believe it's necessary because of the drastic state of the global climate. Extinction Rebellion began last October because it was clear we needed to take urgent action, and since then the climate crisis has only got worse. We've had UN science reports showing the damage climate breakdown is causing to our land and oceans, and we've seen climate impacts causing drought and devastation from Africa to Australia. The weak pledges made at the New York summit last week shows that our leaders aren't acting fast enough, despite the demands from the world's youth climate strikes. So we're left with the only option we have left: peaceful non-violent direct action".

Why was Christian Aid involved in the Faith Bridge? Their Climate Action Campaign explains:

"...right now, millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the worst impacts of climate change, and experts predict more floods, drought and extreme weather patterns to come. For those living in poverty, this means more hunger, conflict and insecurity, and a more uncertain future for us all." The injustice at the heart of the climate crisis was summed up by Antonio Guterres, Secretary General: "Those who contributed least to the problem are suffering the most".

So how should Christians respond to the climate crisis facing our world? The *Church Times* from 11th October quotes the Bishop of Salisbury, The Rt Revd Nick Holtam, who is the lead bishop on environmental affairs. "We are facing an unprecedented global climate crisis. Christians have the duty to care for God's creation. This runs through everything we believe. Climate change is upon us, and affects the world's poorest. Peaceful passionate protest is a democratic response at a time when business as usual will not do".

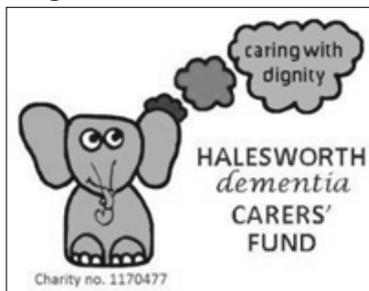
I suggest we should respond by listening to the reasons why people are willing to be arrested and ensure their voices are heard. I believe we should pray also explore practical ways we can respond, such as the Eco Church initiative. Such actions are fundamental to our Christian calling.

"Christians are called by God to show to the world what the divine image looks like - the image of a divine creator who brought the world to birth, called it good, and summoned human beings to reflect this divine care and delight through their own work in the world, animated by the gift of Christ's Spirit.... we need to encourage one another to grow more fully into the joyful responsibility we are made for".

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams,
speaking at a vigil outside St Paul's Cathedral,
Palm Sunday 2019

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The next film matinee will be 2.45pm for 3pm on Wednesday 20th November at The Cut, Halesworth. This will be 'Yesterday', starring Himesh and Lily James, filmed locally, directed by

Danny Boyle and written by Richard Curtis. Our film matinees are not listed in the CUT film guide but keep your eye on advertisements in the *BVTimes* or the 'What's on' pages of other local media and the poster boards around Halesworth.

Entry to watch the film is £5 donation on the door only and don't forget to buy some raffle tickets which help boost the funds for respite care.

Why not get there early and have a coffee at The Cut Cafe and purchase one or two of Jill's hand crafted cards or order a speciality card. Stock up for Christmas!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Paddy Cox)

I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Trustees of Halesworth *dementia* Carers Fund that we have taken the opportunity offered to us by the Pear Tree Centre of

becoming a Support Group Associate. This excellent facility once opened will become the Base for Alice Sparksman our Dementia Society Support (Partnership with Alzheimer's Society) working together with the monthly Peer Support Group where carers of people living with dementia will meet and share their experiences in a safe and non-judgemental environment.

Now in our 6th year, Halesworth *dementia* Carers' Fund continues to provide much needed services for those living with dementia and their family carers. With a health and social care system that is creaking at the seams, the importance of our charitable work has been clearly highlighted. Our respite care service in partnership with Prestige Nursing & Care is enabling us to support currently over 24 families. Our respite care service is available for all patients registered with Cutlers Hill Surgery and referrals can be made via the GP, Prestige Care, District Nurse, Community Matron, Alice Sparksman (HdCF Community Support Worker), or self-referral to Teresa Fyfe 01986 875641, (if you are referring someone, you must have their permission).

We thank you all for all your help and support which enables us to provide this service for the local community and please keep supporting us-your help is invaluable. DR/PC

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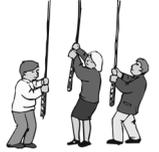
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From the Ringing Chamber



Halesworth's Heritage Open Weekend saw the ringers opening up the secrets of their craft to the general public. A number of members of the town's populace took the opportunity to try their hands at controlling a bell, albeit at backstroke only and under close supervision. Will they take it any further? Well, we have hopes that one or two may return, but who knows?

We finished our session by ringing a long touch of Plain Bob Triples as a prelude to the historical drama that no doubt you all saw and enjoyed. But that was by no means the end of our work for the day. The Suffolk Guild of Ringers holds a social event annually, and this year it was the North East District's turn to host it. In the event the "North East District" turned out to be a joint effort between the Halesworth and Beccles bands. Ed and Michelle had devised a treasure hunt that involved teams seeking clues at four different churches, Westhall, Wenhaston, Bramfield and Halesworth. Eight fiendish, cryptic questions at each location had to be answered in 20 minutes. The bells at each church were available, manned by Halesworth ringers, to make ringers' visits worthwhile, and after a quick "grab" the teams would move on to the next tower.

The day finished at Holton Village Hall where a meal was provided by the catering team who have acquired quite a reputation over the years. Greenjack Golden Best was available at the bar and it was unfortunate that there were two or three pints left at the end of the day that Ed had to finish off. The answers to the various questions were announced as was the winning team, the Busbys and their friends the Rapiers making the most of home advantage and receiving a case of bubbly as their prize. Importantly, everyone (about 70 altogether) had a really good time. The

Guild website carried rave reviews, and we all breathed a sigh of relief that the long-planned day was over, that it had been such a success, and that we won't have to do it again for five years!

A later-than-normal service for Harvest gave us the opportunity to ring a quarter peal beforehand. A couple of last minute changes in personnel meant that a stronger band than anticipated lined up at the kick off. We decided to stick with Plain Bob Triples and a decent quarter was rung without mishap. Meanwhile, the "Surprise" method of the month was Bourne (as in Lincolnshire) and we struggled through a quarter of this at Blythburgh. We had a backup attempt planned at Wissett, and our curate got quite excited when she heard it was "Bourne again": a very good quarter was rung second time around with six "first in method"s over the two performances. Next month the method is Hull, a rather more difficult prospect. I hope that, by the end of the year, we shall have rung a quarter of all the (relatively straightforward) "Cambridge 12". The squad incidentally comprises seven of our band and four from Beccles, and all the successful quarters to date have been a joint effort. In 2020 we shall be looking at some of the more difficult items in the repertoire.

PG

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A letter from our Diocesan President

Dear Friends, on behalf of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Mothers' Union, I would like to say a big thank you for hosting our North Suffolk Area Day on September 26th. Around 40 MU members gathered together, with all the different colourful MU Banners from nearby branches. The Eucharist service, led by Jane, was full of encouragement and inspiration, the hymn singing was amazing, and in the hall afterwards, learning about SELIG (homelessness, night-shelter, Hope in Action) was both disturbing and thought-provoking. Tables were set up selling Christmas cards, MU merchandise, cakes and much more... raising over £200 for our funds, and the morning rounded off with a shared lunch. A great time, and a huge thank you to everyone involved.

The Mothers' Union started in 1876 when Mary Sumner, in her own parish, first brought together a few parents to build their confidence in bringing up their children in the Christian faith. Our name "Mothers' Union" remains unchanged, but think of it as a verb, not a noun, not gender-specific - "to mother" encapsulates caring, cherishing, loving, teaching, instructing, educating, and even giving new life. Today our over-riding focus is still to nurture and care for family in all its many forms.

We are different from other organisations in that we are the largest, grass-roots, women-led movement with a global vision. Members are dedicated volunteers in the communities where they live, here and overseas, seeking to transform lives and bring people closer to

God. In 2018 we collectively supported almost 1 million people in 84 countries, giving them the skills and knowledge to change their lives in a sustainable way. Indeed, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury, we are "one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide Church, and our members a powerful force of hope".

We put our faith into action, by working alongside and encouraging our local church and clergy (many of whom are over-stretched by the nature of multi-parish benefices). Through our diocesan strategy we support MU programs like **AFIA** (Away From It All holidays for the disadvantaged), Befriending projects (like *Meet Up Mondays*, lunch clubs, enjoying 'tea, coffee and cake - with ministry' addressing issues around loneliness and isolation), and Mothers' Union is also a Partner with the Clewer Initiative (to end modern day slavery by 2030, engaging with the campaign "Hidden in Plain Sight") - it's as simple as **A, B, C...**

Come and see what we get up to! To find out more visit our diocesan website at www.musuffolk.org.uk, or our national website at www.mothersunion.org.uk - don't miss out - come and be a part of what we do, so that together we can build a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. With our thanks, and best wishes from MU,

Linda Ginn, Diocesan President

Our next meeting is Thursday 21st November in St Mary's Church Hall at 2pm when we will be making small Advent table decorations. **Change in venue/date** for our Christmas coffee and mince pie morning it is now on Friday 29th November in St Mary's, 10am - 11.30am. Coffee and homemade mince pie £1.50 plus free refill of coffee. Come and enjoy coffee and admire the Christmas trees in church. For more information, please contact Win, 01986 875225.

MU North Suffolk Area Morning, 26.9.19

We had the privilege of hosting the MU NSA Morning at St Mary's Halesworth this year. The morning started with a Eucharist in the Church, which was celebrated by the Revd Jane Held. Branch banners were displayed at the main altar (*see photo*) and members from the other branches read and led the intercessions. The theme was harvest and the collection was for the MU Harvest Appeal. Jason Busby accompanied the harvest hymns. Thank you to Jane and Jason and to two Wenhaston members for being sidespeople.

After an uplifting service we adjourned to the Church Hall. The MUe stall was particularly popular, thanks to Claire and Penny for bringing the goods from Ipswich.

We were fortunate to have two speakers, Julia Hancock, Business Manager for SELIG (Suffolk Trust) and a young colleague, who told us about the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter. This was truly enlightening and provoked many questions. Selig is very definitely a Christian organisation which was set up only a few years ago. They get the support of churches of all denominations in and around Ipswich, including the Mothers' Union, various organisations and individuals and some local and national government funding. Living in this part of Suffolk, it is hard to

realise there are significant numbers of men and some women existing on the streets of Ipswich, 'the visible homeless and the invisible homeless'. Seven Churches in central Ipswich will host 30 or so homeless people, each for one night a week during the winter months. The scheme does depend on many volunteers to make it work.

Members wanted to know how branches could help this winter. Halesworth and Wenhaston members might think about providing hats and gloves (knitted or bought) and toiletries, especially small bottles. It is mostly men they help, but there are some women.

Linda Ginn, our MU Diocesan President, led our Midday prayers on 'Sharing fruitfulness' and then spoke briefly giving us an MU update.

We had a wonderful spread for our Bring & Share Lunch. Thank you very much to the Halesworth members for setting up the hall, organising the lunch, serving the drinks etc. Thanks also to Anna Vessey, North Suffolk Area Rep for the overall organisation and the committee for the planning. We had 38 members present, including two men and two Diocesan members from further afield.

After the Selig speakers' travel expenses and donations to St Mary's and the Church Hall were taken out, Anna was able to send £213.48 to the MU Diocesan Treasurer, for the MU Harvest Appeal.

16 Days of Activism 25.11.19 - 10.12.19

Mothers' Union have supported the **16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence** for some years. Mary Sumner House produces resources for this each year. Sue Norrington, Branch Leader of Yoxmere, has again kindly produced a shorter, simplified version for branches in the North Suffolk Area. For each day there is some information, a Bible reference and a short prayer. There are two A4 sheets, which I shall get photocopied for members, friends and others to use. Win suggests we put these in the Lady Chapel for people to help themselves, as last year. This will be during the Christmas Tree Festival. Do look out for the sheets and take copies for any friends who might be interested.

Janet Walkey

Waveney & Blyth MU Deanery Leader
01986 872594. janetwalkey@hotmail.com



Mothers' Union

General Meeting and Service

A coach transporting 16 members from St Eds & Ips travelled to Bournemouth via Guildford Cathedral on the annual holiday in late September. The Trouville Hotel proved to be excellent with sea views and good food.

Monday morning was spent in Portsmouth where some ascended the Spinnaker with wonderful views over to the Isle of Wight, some visited the Mary Rose while other looked over the *Victory*, Nelson's flagship. After lunch we arrived at Portsmouth Cathedral for one of the Annual Services – there were too many people for one single service. It was very inspiring, with hundreds of MU members and friends singing heartily and a very good address.

The Annual Meeting took place in the Portsmouth Guildhall on Tuesday where the Worldwide President, Mrs Sheran Harper from Guyana, gave an inspiring address to the conference of over 1,000 members. There were other presentations from local dioceses, informing the membership as to what goes on in their neck of the woods. Attending this very interesting meeting really makes one realise how wonderful the Mothers' Union actually is and what good work it does and I would encourage folk to join us next year when we go to Belfast.

We visited a silk mill on Thursday morning and Highcliffe Castle in the afternoon, and on Friday we travelled back to Suffolk. The fellowship was lovely – we started each day with prayer, and joined in Compline in the evenings, and we had lots of laughs and fun as well.

Well done MU!

Margaret Bloomfield

HAIL THE HOPPA!

What a wonderful service is our local **Hoppa** bus, run by HACT (Halesworth Area Community Transport Ltd).



Unable to drive for two months after a knee replacement operation I hopped on the **Hoppa** once or twice a week to go to the surgery and to get my shopping. A friendly and careful driver and a helpful bus buddy who also carried my shopping to my door – marvellous! Passengers can hail the **Hoppa** anywhere it is safe to stop and request a short deviation from the route where necessary.

The **Hoppa** can be used by anyone, those with bus passes and shopping trolleys and mums with toddlers and pushchairs.

The **Hoppa** bus operates on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.45pm-3.30pm (excluding Bank Holidays). Telephone 01986 875900 for more details.

Jenny Janes

St Mary's, Halesworth Receipts Summary September 2019

Collections	£338.00
Planned Giving	£1053.00
Gift Aid	£97.50
General	£66.00
Fees	£651.00
TOTAL	£2205.50

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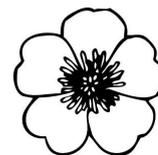
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WHAT'S ON

THE ARTS SOCIETY, SOUTHWOLD

The 2019 Season of Lectures continues on the following Tuesday:

NOV 12th: The very model of an English Entertainment -
THE WORKS OF W S GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

Lecturer: Roger Askew

DEC 10th: THE BAUHAUS. Lecturer: Anthea Streeter

Lectures commence at 2pm in Southwold Arts Centre,
(St Edmund's Hall), Southwold.

Visitors and Members' guests welcome. *Small donation appreciated.*

CANCER RESEARCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

10.30am - 2pm, HOLTON VILLAGE HALL

Light Lunches and Delicious Desserts.

Raffle, Christmas stall, Tombola, Cakes, Books,

Bric-a-brac etc

A warm welcome to everyone

16 Days of Activism 25.11.19 – 10.12.19

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Mothers' Union have supported the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence for some years. Mary Sumner House produces resources for this each year. Sue Norrington, Branch Leader of Yoxmere, has again kindly produced a shorter, simplified version for branches in the North Suffolk Area.

For each day there is some information, a Bible reference and a short prayer. Prayer diary sheets can be found in the Lady Chapel in St Mary's Church, Halesworth



Friends of St Mary's · Halesworth
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Lunchtime Recital

St Mary's Church, Halesworth

Wednesday 13th November, 12.30pm

Picnic lunch available from 12 noon
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Saturday 30th November

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☆Refreshments☆

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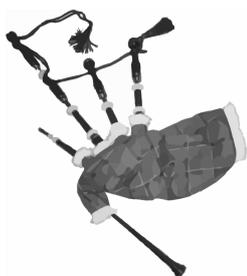
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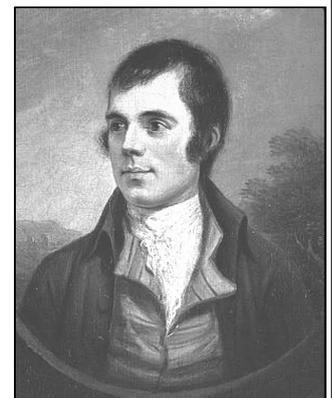


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Somme Day One (July The First 1916)

And as the reedy order-whistle blew,
My mother's brother
Climbed heavy from the sodden trench
And steady walked into the blasting gun-roar
Together with grim comrades. And then soon came,
Amid the grips of baleful wire and floodymud,
Fast death by piercing bullet. All quick and done
On that first day of Somme annihilation.

He was indeed a brother of my mother; my uncle, too.
A youngster of a man I never knew nor loved in boyhood.
Just one of sixty thousand killed and hurt in cruel remembrance
On that first day of Somme annihilation.

In later times, in yet another war,
Crouched sweaty in a slitted trench in Normandy,
I reckoned myself lucky.
No mud, no greedy rats to feed on me,
No soaked clothes or boots to harass me
As suffered by my mother's brother and his mates
On that first day of Somme annihilation.

From a Halesworth Veteran of WW2

FAREWELL TO FATHER ROGER de LACY SPENCER



A celebration party was held on 28th September in honour of Father Roger's retirement during October. He has been ordained a Priest for 40 years and spent the last 16 in the Parish of Southwold and Halesworth.

A large number of Parishioners attended the party. There was a grand buffet followed by a lovely iced fruit cake.

Father Roger was toasted with champagne and wished a very happy retirement. He will be retiring to Beccles in the near future.



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Master Rowan ... a Grandad replies

'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings.' Much commonsense and simple, unassailable truth come from the words published last month in the name of Master Rowan, aged four.

Everyone knows, as he says, that the rich and powerful get where they are through treading on the necks of the poor, and indeed they have always done so.

Today we are living under what has been described as rentier capitalism, which involves among other things certain of the rich and powerful making large profits, excess profits in fact, from commercial activities of strictly limited social value and to the general detriment of the community at large. Over-priced property development is an outstanding example: thousands of people, particularly young people, are being deprived of owning or renting a home because they simply cannot afford to do so. Even worse, they become homeless. At the same time, many business companies are going to the wall (and many jobs are lost in consequence) through excessive greed - coupled with inept, blinkered management - on the part of the owners and directors concerned.

It all comes down to sheer selfishness and lack of concern on the part of too many of those who dictate the way we live and who command inordinate financial power. Such 'leaders' (both men and women) show virtually no imagination, let alone sensitivity, when pursuing 'short-termism' ambitions designed to yield no more than quick, large profits for themselves and their business cronies. They either do not know or want to know what true leadership is or should be - embodying, primarily, essential qualities of fairness. The kind of leadership that takes properly into account the wellbeing of all those people who are going to be affected by the management decisions (commercial and otherwise) that they take.

Many years ago (just after the Second World War) many concerns affecting the well-being of society, certainly in this country, were profoundly and sympathetically dealt with. The idea, for example, of promoting 'good human relations' abounded in British business and industry - and to some extent in America

too, where this particular Grandad once attended a special course conducted by Harvard Business School near Boston. A great deal of earnest attention was paid to the subject and some good resulted - notably in better management behaviour and all-round business performance by a few companies on both sides of the Atlantic. But the necessary interest and attention did not last long. And today, as know only too well, greed and 'short-termism' have taken over virtually everywhere.

Can anything be done to combat the evils of present-day 'rentier capitalism'? Well, why not? Corrective Government policies and legislation may help, but surely 'the church' (meaning all denominations) should also be seen to be taking a strong positive lead in re-asserting basic decent values --with senior church leaders, in particular, constantly engaging with entrepreneurs, heads of relevant businesses and all manner of 'opinion-formers' at every level. Special attention, too, needs to be paid - again on a sustained basis - to the teaching and encouragement of children, tomorrow's business leaders among them.

A start surely needs to be made soon, certainly before Master Rowan (aged four) gets very much older.

Bryan Samain

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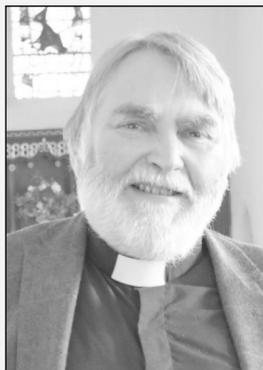
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Mob: 07958 191975
E: edward.rennard@gmail.com
(off duty Monday)



**The Revd
Jane Held**
Assistant Curate

Oak Cottage,
The Street, Rumburgh,
IP19 0JX
Tel: 01986 781760
Mob: 07771 556391
E: jane@janeheld.co.uk
(off duty Thursday
& Friday)



**The Revd
Alison Alder**
Assistant Curate

Oakhurst,
Blackheath Road
Wenhaston, IP19 9HD
Tel: 01502 478855
Mob: 07584 416277
E: alisonalder@
hotmail.co.uk
(off duty Monday
Tuesday & Friday)



**The Revd
Linda Berry**
Assistant Curate

Old Post Office,
The Street
Huntingfield, IP19 0PU
Tel: 01986 798165
E: revlinda@
stmaryshuntingfield.uk
(off duty Thursday
& Friday)

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

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

The Revd Malcolm Walkey *Honorary Associate Priest*
Tel: 01986 872594
Email: malcolmwalkey@hotmail.co.uk

The Revd Pam Bayliss *Honorary Associate Minister*
Tel: 01502 471763
Email: revbayliss@btinternet.com
(Methodist) (Foodbank)

Diana Gardiner *Reader, also Chaplain at HMP and YO1*
Tel: 01986 784174
Email: osmg.diana@gmail.com
Warren Hill and Hollesley Bay.

Win Sutton *Reader*
Tel: 01986 875225
Email: win.sutton28@gmail.com

Veronica Downing *Reader in training*
Tel: 01986 873184
Email: veronica@veronicadowning.co.uk

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

Karen Wynne Evans - *Team Choir Director*
Tel: 01986 873431
Email: karen.wynne.evans@virgin.net

Jason Busby - *Organist - Halesworth, Holton and Team*
Tel: 01986 873336
Mobile: 07817 863533
Email: jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk

Team Council Contacts

Edward Rennard: *Team Rector, Chair of Team Council*
Geoffrey Kiddy: *Lay Chair of Team Council*
Email: mail@wissettllodge.co.uk
Pedro Cockerton: *Team Treasurer*
Tel: 01986 873431 Email: treasurer.bvtm@gmail.com
Carolyn Clarke: *Clerk to Team Council
and Team Administrator*
Tel: 01986 875941 Email: office.bvtm@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS - FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIFTS

PARISH	CHURCHWARDENS	TELEPHONE
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Bramfield	Robert Gamble	01502 478682
Chediston	Graeme Williams	01986 875342
Halesworth	Jason Busby	01986 873336
Heveningham	Camilla Warrillow Janet Pleasance	01986 798408 01986 798533
Holton	John Hewlett	01986 875913
Huntingfield	Emma Ward	01986 785343
Linstead	Roger Wilkinson Malcolm Heath	01986 785167 01986 785289
Spexhall	Fred Woods Janet Sochon	01986 781256 01986 781151
Thorington	Trish & Mike Gower	01502 478267
Wenhaston	Jonathan Alder	01502 478855
Wissett	Geoffrey Kiddy Nick Evans	01986 873173 01986 872372



News from Churches Together

A big 'thank you' to those who joined me for the 'Uganda Experience' I hope you'll be able to pass on to others something of how inspiring it can be to hear what God is doing in such a different cultural setting!

I want to encourage you, again about the prayer for our churches, communities and Nation that is ongoing: A small group met at the site of the new housing development off Hill Farm Road recently. Prayer themes included safety for workers, good relationships, blessings on all who will move in and on the neighbours already there. We plan to do this again on Friday 6th December at 11.15am. People from any church or none are welcome.

As well as local ecumenical prayer groups continuing to grow, the Saturday prayer gatherings are ongoing. Please join the next one:

Saturday 9th November, 11am @ the URC

After that, it will be Saturday 14th December, at St Mary's.

As December approaches, so does *Advent!* This year our joint churches' Advent worship and tea will be organised/led by St Edmund's, hosted in St Mary's church hall. Note the date now, as the next issue of *BVTimes* may be too close to the date. Join this joyful celebration on:

Sunday 1st December, 3pm @ St Mary's Hall

Blessings
Jon

**HALESWORTH CO-OP FUNERALCARE
inc WOOLNOUGH FUNERAL SERVICE**
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Halesworth IP19 8HD
Tel 01986 872204, 24hr, 7 days a week

SAMARITANS

Wednesday 20th November
Samaritans "drop-in" at St Mary's
Church, Halesworth
from 10am - 12noon.
The "drop-in" is held on the
third Wednesday each month



*"Rosedale really do
make an emotional
time more bearable
and your care and
concern shines
through all you do."*

— from a family we have cared for at Rosedale

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ECUMENICAL CLERGY

Louise Morrissey *Methodist Minister in Covenant*
Wenhaston Methodist Church,
62 King George's Avenue, Leiston, IP16 4JG
Tel: 01728 830733
email: Delilah.Morrissey@googlemail.com

Jon Sermon *URC Minister*
Halesworth & Bramfield URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth, IP19 8EP
Tel: 01986 873761
email: jon@sermons.me.uk

Don Nichols *URC Minister*
Halesworth & Bramfield URC,
Quay Street, Halesworth, IP19 8EP
Tel: 01986 872913
email: donnichols2@btinternet.com

Roger Spencer *Roman Catholic Priest*
The Presbytery
The Common, Southwold, IP18 6AH
Tel: 01502 722265
email: delacyspencer@btinternet.com

TEAM LAY ELDERS

Margaret Bloomfield 01502 478502
Jason Busby 01986 873336
Alison Cackett 01986 874442
Robert Gamble 01502 478682
Malcolm Heath 01986 785289
John Hewlett 01986 875913
Eileen Salmon 0793 8199067
Janet Walkey 01986 872594

margaretibloomfield@talktalk.net
jasonbusby@yahoo.co.uk
acackett@me.com
rwagamble@gmail.com
mlheath@aol.com
johnfhewlett@btinternet.com

janetwalkey@hotmail.com

Holton Baptism



St Peter's Church Holton hosted the joyful baptism of Marley and Amyah Fortes Soares on October 6th.

Good news from Cutler's Hill Surgery

Dear Patients

We have been aware of the difficulties you have been facing when requesting appointments at the Cutlers Hill Surgery. In the past year, we have done our best to resolve this issue. We are now proud to inform you of our new **Same Day Surgery** which has been working successfully for the past few months.

How it works

For **urgent or same day appointments**, please call the surgery as early as possible after 8.30am. Our receptionists, will take down your details of your problem. Please remember that our receptionists are trained to assess your health issue and direct you towards the right support. They will then refer your case to the appropriate clinical practitioner at the surgery. A clinical practitioner, a nurse or a doctor will call you back to assess you, and decide who would be the most appropriate person at the surgery to see you.

Please use this system for **urgent health issues that cannot wait**. Where possible, phone the surgery rather than just presenting at the surgery. Thank you.

Of course for life threatening illness, you need to dial 999.

The Surgery will still offer **routine bookable appointments** so you can still phone and get your usual routine appointment.

We sincerely hope that our **New Same Day Surgery** will enables us to see you quickly so you can feel better sooner!

For further information, please do not hesitate to call us on 01986 874618.

Cutler's Hill Surgery



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late Mrs Beryl Ross, formerly of Holton, whose funeral was held at St Peter's church Holton on Wednesday 9th October 2019, would like to thank everyone for their kind condolences and thank all who attended her funeral. Beryl would have been very pleased.

The family of the late Mrs Doris Chitty, formerly of Halesworth, whose funeral was held at All Saints church, Blyford on Tuesday 22nd October 2019, would like to thank all who attended her funeral and also thank everyone for their kind messages and condolences.

LIFE EVENTS

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

Marley Patrick and Amyah Rei-Ann Fortes Soares at Holton

FUNERALS:

Wendy Clack at Halesworth

Rebecca Christine Clarke at Wenhaston

Philip James Stevens at Halesworth

Jacqueline Sue Ball at Waveney Memorial Park

Beryl Ross at Holton

David William Leech at Waveney Memorial Park

Anita "Ann" Rackham at Halesworth

Doris Jessie Chitty at Blyford

WEDDINGS:

Lauren Sottile and James Robinson at Huntingfield

Hayley Barnard and Adam Mountfield at Spexhall

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Halesworth Foodbank News

Firstly thank you to everyone - individuals and churches and schools for all the wonderful response we have received over the harvest season. Your gifts have been gratefully received. All gifts go to our central warehouse to be made into packs containing a balanced diet. The boxes then come back to us to give out, varying from singles, couples and family boxes. We are also very grateful for toiletries and cleaning products too. This year as fast as the gifts are received they are going out. We have been much in demand in the Waveney Valley. Soon it will be time to make up our Christmas parcels.

We aim to include small toys, small items of clothing for all ages, e.g. gloves, scarves, hats, socks and Christmas goodies, such as biscuits, chocolates, mince pies (check use by date on them please) and cakes etc. If you can help with any of these items, it would be great! We need to receive them by the **end of November at the latest**, so as to deliver in time for Christmas. They can be left at any of the drop off points listed below.

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, Halesworth between 10.45am and 12noon 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. Dragonflies (for those under 5). Halesworth Volunteer Centre, 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 and give you emergency supplies.

Halesworth Foodbank are in urgent need of donations for LOCAL use. As well as food donations, we need cat and dog food, tin openers, toiletries, washing up liquid, laundry powder and household cleaning items, sun cream, children's sun cream, lip salve. We also need bottles of baby food and products, long life milk (UHT or powdered), fruit juice (long life cartons), tinned meat/fish, sugar (500g), cereals, tinned vegetables, tinned sponge puddings, instant mashed potato, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauces, tinned rice puddings, jam, biscuits or snack bars, cereal bars, tea bags, instant coffee, tinned fruit, squash (no sugar added varieties).

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 Edmund's Church;
United Reformed Church;**

**Wenhaston Methodist Church; Wenhaston Post Office;
Wenhaston St Peter's; Holton St Peter's;
Spexhall St Peter's; Wissett St Andrew's;**

**Rosedale Funeral Directors; Woolnough Funeral Directors;
Hideout Café; or The Hub, Huntingfield.**

We do rely on the goodwill of the general public, so may I say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues so faithfully to help us.

**Pam Bayliss
Organiser for Halesworth and Beccles Foodbanks**

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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 copy is sent to
blyth.valley.times@gmail.com**

**PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for ALL copy
for the December issue is midday on
Saturday 9th November
But the sooner the better please!
Publishing date: Thursday 21st November**

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BVTimes and Team Office

St Mary's Church, Steeple End,
Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8LL
Tel: 01986 875941

**BVTM: office.bvtm@gmail.com
BVT: blyth.valley.times@gmail.com**

News from Town & Villages

Bramfield

Correspondent June Brereton

www.bramfieldandthorington.suffolk.cloud

Harvest Festival

The Blyth Valley Team Harvest Service was held in Bramfield when the church had been beautifully decorated. Even some evidence of exotic fruit was on display – grapes and lemons AND this amazing sweet potato!



Coffee afterwards was a good chance to meet up with our friends from other parishes.

Sunday 6th October after a particularly dry end to summer, when we were all crying out for relief for our parched gardens, it rained all day dropping 2 inches of rain. Not quite the great flood of 12th October 1993, when the normally dry stream bed overflowed and caused devastating flooding to houses in Bridge Street and widespread inundation along the back of The Street. Since that episode the Rivers Authority (or whatever they are called now) did a lot of work on the stream bed and instituted a flood warning system.

Christmas is coming the geese are getting fat... Village Hall Christmas Fair November 30th.

Christmas Carol Service - Sunday 15th December.

Harvest Supper

Great reports of the Harvest Supper – more than 60 people attended and enjoyed a tasty supper followed by good music.

Church Opening and closing For week beginning Monday

Nov 4	L and A Cunningham
Nov 11	M Collins
Nov 18	L Buckingham
Nov 25	L and A Cunningham

Church Cleaning for week beginning Monday

Nov 4th	V and E Page
Nov 11th	C Chenery
Nov 18th	J Alexander and J Barham
Nov 25th	L Buckingham and L Trussler

Altar Flowers for Sunday

Nov 3rd	D Bond
Nov 10th	Remembrance
Nov 17th	Bebe Fleet's family
Nov 24th & 31st	No flowers during Advent.

Village Hall Draw for October

1st	Mrs L Cunningham	£12
2nd	J and D Beckett	£6
3rd	Mr A Rowe	£5

Chediston

Correspondent

Sally Aldous 01986 873363

www.chediston.suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride – Sat 14th Sept

Fewer cyclists visited this year. When I drove to Ipswich that afternoon, I only saw one cyclist! Perhaps this annual event is losing its appeal but being a national event, we are not really in a position to intervene. Anyhow we are extremely grateful to David Mantell and John Parson who supported us and raised the cash, half of which comes back to St Mary's. Thank you to all those who sponsored them and those who sat in the church to welcome the cyclists.

David Mantell writes: I cycled today to help raise funds for the historic churches in Suffolk and particularly for Chediston. I rode 30 miles and visited 21 churches. My legs this year tell me that the hills have become somewhat steeper! Thanks to those who sponsored me.



Chediston Harvest Service 29th September 2019

A congregation of over 30 villagers celebrated the successful 2019 harvest. The service was led by David Sochon and the address was by Sally Fogden (*photo below*); both in their inimitable, friendly and interesting individual styles. Lusty singing of harvest hymns together with the traditional presentation of garden and field produce made for an enjoyable service. Following this a highly enjoyable gastronomic delightful lunch was served in the Schoolroom.

Thanks to those who gave up time to decorate the church and participate



including those who prepared the lunch. Harvest collection was £142.15 of which 50% will go to the Farming Community Network. Sale of surplus produce is still going on, along with a collection of goods for the Halesworth Foodbank.

WI Meeting

Ann Williams writes: It was with some trepidation that the Chediston and Linstead WI met for its monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th October for the scheduled iris folded card-making session. Ann Wilding our demonstrator, was well organised and each member made a card with varying levels of satisfaction. There was much chatter and hilarity accompanying this craft activity which, followed by an excellent tea made this an extremely enjoyable and sociable afternoon. Next month will be the AGM.

Remembrance Sunday

This very important service in the Church's calendar takes place at St Mary's on Sunday 10th November starting with the "Act of Remembrance" at the War Memorial in the churchyard. The exact time and details of who is taking this service for us are on page three of this issue of *BVTimes*. We naturally remember all those who fell in World War I and World War II together with all those who gave their lives in more recent conflicts.

Halesworth

Correspondent Jason Busby
01986 873336

We pray - Gracious God, surround us and all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm your children, or turn them against you. When grief seems never ending, take them one step at a time along your road of death and resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. We have seen too many funerals in St. Mary's of late. Hazel Elizabeth Turbervill, Philip James Stevens, Wendy Clack, Anita Rackham 'Ann'. May you rest in peace and rise in glory.

With great sadness comes a remembrance of someone through the music they loved. Beautiful funeral services and music. We give thanks for the work of Rosedale Funeral Home and Halesworth Co-op Funeralcare providing comfort to our loved ones.

At the other end of the scale, it was a delight to be on the organ for the

wedding of Lauren Leigh Sottile and James William Robinson at St Mary's Huntingfield on Saturday 12th October. A very traditional wedding service (ticked all my boxes). With organ and trumpet together for the entrance and exit music – *Trumpet Voluntary* by Jeremiah Clarke and John Stanley's *Trumpet Voluntary in D*. Readings from Song of Solomon and the epistle to the Colossians. Huge congratulations to Jane Held for leading her first wedding service (BCP I might add, lots of tongue twisting sentences!). The photo (*below*) shows Lauren, James and the Revd Jane Held.

At the Team Service on October 6th we celebrated Malcolm Walkey's fifty years of ordination and I am sure Malcolm has many years left in him supporting us here in the Blyth Valley.

Malcolm, this comes with warmest thanks for your loving service to the Church and for the many years here in Suffolk and the Blyth Valley Team Ministry. May the Lord bless you and keep you, fill your life with His joy and sustain you by His grace.

The PCC would like to acknowledge with grateful thanks £5279 received from the trustees of the Halesworth Unappropriated Estates.

The Regeneration Group meet next on Thursday 13th November. The Halesworth PCC next meets on Tuesday 19th November at 7pm.

For all services in November please see page three of this issue. The Halesworth Town Remembrance Service is at 3pm on Sunday 10th November.

It was with great sadness that Bishop Martin communicated news of the death of The Venerable Ian Morgan, Archdeacon of Suffolk on Thursday 3rd October after a long period of ill health. Archdeacon Ian was married to Tracey and was a much-loved husband, father, grandfather, priest, colleague and friend. He will be dearly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

A service of tribute, worship and thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the late Archdeacon Ian will be held at 3pm on Sunday 17th November at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh. Clergy are requested to robe in choir dress, Lay ministers are also invited to robe. Ian's favourite flower was a red carnation, so do wear one if you are able to locate one at this time of year! Due to limited parking please share transport where possible. Please remember Ian's family in your prayers as we respect their privacy at this difficult time.



Above: The Venerable Ian Morgan



Holton

Correspondent Denise Beale
dkbeale@btinternet.com

Gillian (Gill) Canham

Gill Canham's funeral was held in St Peter's at the end of August, and afterwards her family very kindly gave us a framed tapestry picture of St Peter's which she had made; Gill not only did the needlework, but had also enlarged the picture from a small photograph. We are very grateful to Gill's sons for their gift to us, and the PCC have agreed that the picture will hang in the belfry at eye level. **John H**

POP-IN PARLOUR

I think you must have taken my words in *BVTimes* seriously as we had a lovely crowd of people to the October lunch. Bill and Denise did sterling work making sure everyone was fed and watered. The soups were delicious and the variety of cheeses and bread added to everyone's enjoyment.

We now wait with anticipation for November's Pop-In Parlour on Friday 1st November, when we will be sampling different soups from the kitchen of Dot Booley. **Jill Hewlett**

Our Harvest Festival

On Sunday 13th October we celebrated Harvest at our morning service at St Peter's, with the Church looking lovely with beautiful flower displays.

The Revd Malcolm Walkey led our worship and preached a thought-provoking sermon on giving thanks to God for all his gifts to us, and how often we appreciate the gifts but do not give thanks. Examples of these gifts were taken up to the altar and we gave thanks for them; for water, the soil, seeds, vegetables, flowers and fruits, bread and wine. We also gave thanks for the Foodbank and gifts were presented. Hymns were sung and prayers said in fellowship with each other.

We continued our fellowship over tea and coffee and Dot Booley's delicious Harvest loaf, then those who were staying for lunch moved into St Peter's Room to sing "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above..." as our grace and to enjoy a wonderful lunch.

Remembrance Sunday

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on November 10th, and our service will begin at 10.50am at the War Memorial

in St Peter's churchyard, and then in church. Afterwards we will walk up to the airfield war memorials, reading out loud the names of the American airmen who died during the Second World War while serving from Holton. There will be prayers at the war memorials then followed by refreshments in the Museum. Our thanks go to the Museum volunteers for organising this. **John H**

Christmas Fair

On Saturday 30th November from 10am, Holton Christmas Fair will be underway at Holton Village Hall with refreshments, a raffle, as well as the usual stalls. Do come along, everyone is welcome.

Dot's Christmas Coffee Morning

Here is an early invitation to everyone for Dot's Christmas Coffee Morning. This year it will be on Friday 13th December from 10am at 7 Park Walk. Please come and support The Pear Tree Fund while enjoying coffee, cake and a chat. Thanks. **Dottie**

The Children's Society – Christingle

Holton's Christingle Service will be held in St Peter's Church on Christmas Eve at 4pm as usual.

On October 10th, I received an email from Jess at The Children's Society, which I am going to share with you:

"Today is World Mental Health Day. This year, we want to give voice to young people who are not getting the right help at the right time to support their mental well-being.

With 30,000 young people being turned away from mental health services every year, it is vital that we raise awareness of the often unseen nature of their mental health problems.

(There is then a picture of a boy and a girl in uniform sitting in a school corridor waiting to see someone. The boy in particular looks extremely worried).

These young people have reached a crisis point. They have no one to turn to. They feel invisible. Together we need to show them they are not alone. It then says - *watch the video*. Please share this video to show young people that you are listening and supporting them.

Thank you for all that you do. Jess".

If you would like to see the video,

please ask me and I will forward it to you.

Every year at St Peter's Church we support the excellent work of The Children's Society through our Christingle Service. The whole of the collection goes to the Society. It is great if those who can Gift Aid their collection use one of the Gift Aid envelopes. If you are a taxpayer this means your donation is increased by 25% by the Government with no extra cost to you. Apart from The Children's Society's practical support of young people in various ways, they also highlight serious issues and lobby the Government to take action.

Janet Walkey, 01986 872594
janetwalkey@hotmail.com
Co-ordinator for Holton for
The Children's Society

Holton & Blyford Village Hall

Autumn kicked off with an Autumn Supper where 60+ people sat down to loads of fresh items and glorious puddings. These included some wonderful Pavlovas made by Don and Liz – thank you so much. Eric Sedge sang to the assembled company. Eric delighted all listeners with his gentle brand of music – how lucky we are to have him living so close!

Our Christmas Craft Fair is on Saturday 16th November and opens to the public from 10am until 4pm. There will be hot soup, bacon rolls and home made cakes, plus, of course, tea and coffee.

Anyone wishing to book a stall please ring Wendy on 01986 872590.

The primary school will be having their metal collection on November 2nd and 3rd and the kitchen will be open for hot bacon rolls and tea/coffee. Please support the school and clear up any scrap metal you have around.

On November 30th at 2pm we will be decorating the stage with our array of Christmas trees, anyone with a couple of hours to spare would be most welcome to come and help "erect" the forest.

Special notice. We are delighted that Jason and the Revd Jane Held will be joining us to "do" our Annual Carols and Pints on Saturday 14th December. 7.30pm is the start to what is usually a great convivial evening.

Bingo is a great evening every other Thursday. November dates are 7th and 21st, and December are 5th and 19th (prosecco and mince pies)!

Advance Notice: On Saturday 25th

January we will be celebrating Burns Night again. Featuring a 3 course hot meal, the address to the haggis, and all the usual fun of the event, we look forward to another great evening. Tickets are available now from Wendy on 01986 872590 and they are £15 each. Why not make up a table (8) of friends?... and no you don't have to be from Scotland to join in!

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL TOTE. OCTOBER 2019 RESULTS

1st prize £25	Shirley and Rob Woolterton
2nd prize £10	Gill Johnson
3rd prize £5	Marjorie Handley
4th prize £5	Hazel Doigt

Linstead

Correspondent

Malcolm Heath 01986 785289

www.linstead.suffolk.gov.uk

MY ONLY RESERVATION ABOUT November is that otherwise sane and sensible men try to grow moustaches. The fact that, by the end of the month, the outbreaks of fungus on upper lips are barely recognisable for what they are supposed to be, does not deter them. They would certainly not be candidates for the use of Hungarian moustache wax. You will not be surprised to learn that I have no intention of growing a moustache but would happily contribute to an appropriate charity in order to be excused.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL WAS AGAIN A memorable occasion. We make no apologies for having a traditional approach and so the church looked absolutely splendid. Our thanks go to all who helped with the decorations, which were wonderful. I was going to say that there was not a baked bean tin in sight, but that would not be true. In years gone by, the fruit and vegetables would go to the local hospital, but no longer. We now, as do most churches, make a collection of non-perishables for the Halesworth Foodbank, which is always in need of contributions. There is an extra 'thank you' due to all who contributed to the foodbank box.

CHEDISTON & LINSTEAD WI MET IN October and, under the tutelage of Ann Wilding, made 'iris' Christmas cards. For the benefit of the uninitiated, this is what an iris card looks like:



In a word, splendid. Why 'iris'? I think that the technique looks like the iris of a camera, well when cameras used to have an iris. The only slight snag, that I could think of was that, even in my wife's very capable hands, one card took her well over an hour and we send out over a hundred cards! Notwithstanding, it was a highly enjoyable and, potentially, productive afternoon. Their next meeting is at 2.30pm on Tuesday 12th November, at Linstead Village Hall. This will be their AGM.

IF THERE IS ONE ANNUAL EVENT IN Linstead's busy social whirl, that resonates with children of all ages, it is:

THE GREAT LINSTEAD BEETLE DRIVE AND FISH & CHIP SUPPER

**will be held on Saturday 16th
November, from 7pm**

AT LINSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

**GOOD OLD-FASHIONED
FAMILY FUN**

**Please contact Vicky Wilkinson
(785167) to give numbers.**

**Bring your own
liquid refreshment
Tea & coffee provided**

**Cost: Adults £10,
Children under 12: £6.
In aid of Village Hall Funds**

The point is that youngsters compete with wrinklies on a more than even footing. So come along and bring your children and grandchildren with you. A great evening driving beetles, and enjoy some fish and chips as well!

I AM AWFULLY SORRY BUT YOU have to accept the fact that Christmas is coming and whilst you are looking forward to it, you are also dreading it, it's known as mixed feelings. Fear not because it has long been our mission to try to take the angst out of the Festive Season: Not a simple task, but start your Christmas shopping at Linstead Market and the rest will be much easier! Newcomers are a little puzzled by the fact that we hold this event in Halesworth rather than in Linstead. The reason is that we feel that we providing a very special social service and we think it only fair that we extend it to as wide an audience as possible.

LINSTEAD COMES TO HALESWORTH LINSTEAD MARKET

**will be held at:
ST MARY'S
CHURCH HALL
on SATURDAY 30th
NOVEMBER
10am to 1pm
Christmas Gifts,
Food and Decorations
Raffle
Seasonal Refreshments**

IN THE MIDST OF THE PREPARATIONS there is an oasis of calm and tranquillity, when we can really start to feel properly Christmassy.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**The annual service of
carols & readings**

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

This is an event for the whole family so please do join us. There will be seasonal refreshments afterwards

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

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER COMPRISE a Service of Remembrance on the 10th, A village service, where we will be joined

by Chediston, on the 17th and Holy Communion on the 24th. All services will be at 9.30am.

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER

DATE	FLOWERS & CLEANING
3rd	No Service
10th	Mrs A Frost and Mrs V Bish
17th	Mrs P Keable and Mr D Keable
24th	Mr and Mrs Robin Ward

Spexhall

Correspondent

Janet Sochon

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

Keats' *Ode to Autumn* lauds the "season of mellow fruitfulness", but cannot possibly mention all the joys of the season – one of the greatest of which must be "conkers". This year they seemed to be more prolific after the very hot summer and picking up a case and prising it open to reveal the wonderful shining jewel inside is one of my greatest joys of the season. What a pity it is that that magnificent sheen (so reminiscent of the coat of a Suffolk Punch) dulls and fades so quickly.

In most churches there is something special about Harvest Festival and Spexhall is no exception with the church decked in many flower arrangements and piles of fruit and vegetables (and conkers) symbolic of the countryside rhythms and a token of the thanks we should give for God's many mercies to us. The lunch in the Village Hall after the service was also a huge success with much animated chatter and high spirits symptomatic of the fellowship that Spexhall enjoys. Many thanks are due to the cooks and the washer-ups who served us so well.

Malcolm celebrated the October Team Eucharist on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination and all present rejoiced with him. The torrential rain drumming on the roof of St Mary's during the service made me think of the excesses of weather conditions that are becoming more and more apparent with the obvious global warming. We returned home to find the driveway and garden flooded, but with no water from the taps. Panic! What to do? Some hours later the plumber arrived to find that the system was by then operating properly - (quite why it stopped is still a mystery) but it made us aware of how lucky we are to have water on tap when we want it.

Money for the fund to refurbish the Spexhall War Memorial is coming in slowly, and while it appears that the restoration will not start until after this year's Remembrance Service on November 10th we hope that it will be completed next year.

Thorington

Correspondent Trish Gower

01502 478267

Little news at this time of year from Thorington and our Harvest Service will have taken place when this is read. All we can say is we warmly invite you to the Annual Carol Service on December 24th at 6.30pm. There will be the usual mulled wine and infamous mince pies served from 6.15pm. Please bring torches to help reach the church safely! See you there in December!

Wenhaston

Correspondent

Margaret Bloomfield

01502 478502

margaretbloomfield@talktalk.net

Wenhaston School children came to St Peter's on Friday before Harvest Festival and brought their harvest gifts for the Foodbank – 12 bags in all. I am sure the Foodbank reps were very grateful. The perishable food was auctioned after the harvest lunch and together with the collection and donations, £180 was sent to Christian Aid. The Service and Lunch all went very well and thank you very much to all who made it such a success. Lindsey cycled for St Peter's on the Ride and Stride Day and raised £115. We are all very grateful to her for turning out for us.

The Jumble Sale was on Saturday 12th October and £433.64 was raised. Again thank you to all involved – I couldn't do it without you! I will publish the results of the Quiz next month.

On November 16th we will be holding a Grand Garage Book Sale at Spindleberry, Narrow Way, by kind invitation of Margaret Goldstone. We have been donated some very nice books and together with the best books given for the Jumble Sale, we offer them at a very reasonable price. There will also be coffee and cake for £1. Do come and see what we have to offer. We hope to have some sort of competition at the Bazaar and we hope you will support us.

Sidespeople and Services in November

3rd	10am Team Service at Halesworth
10th	10.45am Remembrance at War Memorial 11am in church
17th	9.30am Morning Prayer, Jane Held
24th	11.15am Pause for Thought

Church Cleaning in November

3rd	Jenny Jeffrey and Sue Gow
17th	June and Trevor Tate

MB

WENHASTON MU

We are looking forward to our November Meeting on the 13th, when our member, Jane Gamble, is going to surprise us with the subject of her Talk and/or Demonstration, but whatever Jane chooses I am sure it will be very interesting.

At the present time we are about to fill and pack Shoe Boxes for Eastern European Countries and to date I have had a good response with items for the Boxes. More news as to how many we were able to send, next month.

Margaret G

Footpath Walking

A morning village walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 5th November.

On Tuesday 19th November Aileen and Philip Wells will lead a circular walk around Kessingland. Meet at 10am at Livingstone's where we will lunch. (Livingstone's is adjacent to the entrance to Africa Alive) Menus available for pre-ordering at the local walk on November 5th.

For any further information contact Heather Phillips on 01502 478545.

Wenhaston WI

It was very gratifying to see so many visitors attending Dr Isabel Skypala's talk on allergies. She is a dietitian from the Royal Brompton Hospital, her field being food allergies, food hypersensitivity and food intolerance but at her lecture to us she concentrated on allergies. It was a very informative and interesting talk, she went into the subject in such depth that it is difficult to report on all aspects of the lecture.

We were informed that there are several theories as to why children

seem to have more allergies now compared with the past. One is that Mothers are being advised to breast feed for longer with no solids being introduced into the diet for six months. However it is important that babies and young children should increase their food diversity to help them develop anti bodies. Peanut allergy is one of the very common allergies, in one study Mothers were encouraged to give their babies peanuts, and interestingly none of the babies developed an allergy. Milk is also a common allergy in children but often they can tolerate cooked milk. Isabel pointed out that rice and oat milk is not a suitable substitute and can cause malnutrition as they don't contain vitamins or much protein. Very often allergies will have gone by the age of eighteen and adults are unlikely to develop any unless they inadvertently eat bad shell fish!

Next month is our AGM followed by a talk by Marie Limb – Hair Today Gone Tomorrow which may or may not be more light hearted. **FJ**

WENHASTON FLOWER CLUB

Our next meeting on November 5th at 7.30pm in the Church Room, will be a Christmas themed workshop with Roger. Everyone is welcome just pay on the door on the night.

You will need:-

Spray tray approx 10ins long

Half a block of oasis cut longways (two people can share one block)

Oasis tape

Five roses or bloom carnations

Eight large ivy leaves

Small amount of bushy foliage (holly, hebe, conifer)

10 kebab sticks

15 plain coloured baubles (Three different sizes i.e. five of each)

Baubles and flowers to create a mixed colour theme.

A big thank you to everyone who braved the weather and came to our Charity Night also a big thank you to everyone who sent donations. We have raised £380 to date for Cancer Research.

The Church Room, Wenhaston

It will soon be common knowledge that the Church room will be put up for sale. This building has been an important landmark in the village for many years. It is thought that it was built sometime

the around the Regency era, its origins being lost in the mists of time. It was the original school and for many years it was known as the old school room by the locals.

For some time the Church has been running the Room at a considerable loss and cannot sustain these considerable outgoings for much longer, it has also been pointed out that a lot of money is needed to bring it up to standard. These are some of the reasons why the Church needs to sell it.

Years ago many activities were held there, Brownies, Guides, Good Companions and who might remember Mrs Peirce's dancing classes – romping around the room 'doing' The Palais Glide while Mrs Battle played the piano.

It would be rather sad to see this historic building turned into yet another dwelling or rather would it be a good idea to turn it into a village amenity and owned by the village?

In the past money was raised to build our first class village hall, so would there be the same interest in saving the Church Room? It has been suggested that it could be turned into an art centre and/or a museum. There is a lot of memorabilia around that needs to be saved for future generations. We shouldn't forget the Roman artefacts that were found when the Hopkin Homes were built (these have yet to be returned to the village from wherever they were taken). Probably grants or lottery money could be obtained to help fund this project.

Is this just a pipe dream or could it be turned into an exciting reality? After all Southwold, Dunwich and Halesworth maintain a museum so there is no reason why Wenhaston couldn't do the same.

Should anyone have an interest in this venture please email

felicity@heron587.plus.com

or send your views to the Wenhaston Warbler. **FJ**

Wissett

Correspondent

Nick Evans

01986 872372

nickandmaggie@btinternet.com

Michaelmas this year was a special occasion. The work of a Rural Dean

must be much more considerable than it was in the great days of Barchester, or even a mere twenty years ago. Simon Pitcher of Southwold is soon relinquishing this office, and he generously suggested that out of the fifty or so churches in the Blyth and Waveney Deanery, his last Deanery Evensong should be held at Wissett on September 29th. Karen brought the Team Choir, Jason played the organ, and the acting Archdeacon Jeanette Gosney preached at this fine and traditional service. Beforehand we had a quarter peal rung by a skilled band arranged by Philip Gorrod, and afterwards a huge tea in the village hall; somehow Kath Witherby is always there to lead these kitchen arrangements, for the church, and for others such as the Macmillan Nursing Coffee Morning, and we thank her.

The catering department had been out in force only a couple of weeks before for the Harvest Supper, which followed the Harvest Festival service. Jason played for this one too, and took the photographs which made last month's Wissett news a rare illustrated number. Not quite so many came this year, but it was very enjoyable. It has to be said that church numbers overall show a gently declining trend, which we must somehow face as we prepare a vibrant parish profile for attracting Edward's successor.

Henry Kiddy, who has moved to Norwich, organised our station on the Historic Churches Bike Ride for the last time. It was good to see the Sutton family out in force again, riding for Wissett.

The church was simultaneously manned for Gift Day, and we are very grateful for all the contributions, which have reached about £2,000.

We will have enjoyed another month of British Summer Time, but evenings in November are dark. Compensation comes from candlelight, and the first opportunity is on Saturday 2nd, the Commemoration of All Souls: the church will be open from 5pm to 7pm for candles, quiet thought, and remembering our friends and family who have died. The Remembrance Sunday Service is at 10.45am on 10th. St Andrew's Day, 30th, falls on Saturday this year, when we will have the Patronal Festival Eucharist at 7pm, with 'Fisherman's Refreshments'.

Wenhaston – a thriving community – a thriving Church???

An appeal for volunteers

Since becoming part of Wenhaston's village life through my role at St Peter's Wenhaston, I have been struck by the vibrant nature of the village, the wide range of activities and clubs and organisations. Wenhaston is a village that cares... and at the heart of the village is the Church – always there, always available to folk. And yet we are struggling at St Peter's, believe it or not. The church is wonderfully supported through fund-raising events and an army of folk who open, close, clean, do flowers, etc. All this is greatly appreciated, we are really very grateful. However, the church desperately needs more stewardship.

What does this mean? Well what it really means is we need more people to join our governing body (or management committee) – known as the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The PCC currently has lost a number of key folk over the last couple of years, and those remaining are with two notable exceptions definitely drawing their OAP and getting a bit weary. It is not onerous – it meets four to six times a year in the evening. I chair the PCC, it can be fun, and we get through the business thoroughly, but fast. But the more members, the lighter the load AND, funnily enough, to be on it you do NOT need to be a practising Christian (although some familiarity with the Church of England helps). You

would be helping to keep St Peter's at the heart of village life, alive and thriving, well run and managing its building and its budgets well and there for everyone, at any time. PLEASE consider it.

If you are interested, speak to either the Revd Jane (01986 781760) or to the Revd Alison, or to Jonathan Alder.

Jane Held

Walpole Winter Craft Barn 2019

Just a reminder - Walpole Winter Craft Barn (now in its eighth year) will take place on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th November at Hill House Farm, Walpole, from 11am to 4pm each day – raising funds for our local 'green' charity: Cookpole Energy Action.

There will be 36 stalls, displaying a fantastic selection of hand-crafted gifts and produce, all by local artists. There will be homemade refreshments by 'Cookpole Café', big prize raffle, and community electric bikes to try out. Entry is £1 for adults (children free).

To find out more, please visit:

<http://cookpolenews.onesuffolk.net/cookpole-energy-action/walpole-winter-craft-barn/>



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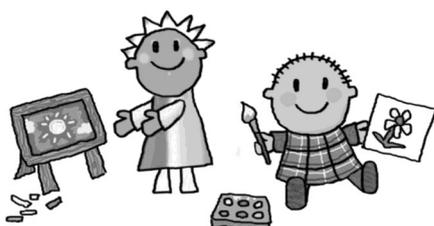
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LUNCHTIME RECITALS

**WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER – Resonant Harmony:
A Musical Journey for Two Bass Viols**



It would be quite usual to hear viols played in St Mary's in the seventeenth century to accompany the choir but it was an unexpected delight to hear two bass viols last month in the recital given by Catherine Clark and Elizabeth McDonald, both of whom have played with many orchestras and consorts both in the UK and abroad. The seven-string bass viols belong to the double bass family rather than that of violins, as Beth explained in her informative introduction to each of the pieces which they played. *Duum Vocum* by Orlando di Lassus, based on a seven note theme, was then followed by three pieces from the late sixteenth century, most likely performed for friends in their homes: *Hold Right* by Michael East, an anonymous piece (perhaps written by a woman?) and *Fantasia* by William White. *Treizième Concert* by François Couperin is one of the many pieces of music for the bass viol written by French composers in the time of Louis XIV and Louis XV, often dance music with much ornamentation. The recital ended with two pieces by Marin Marais, *Le Moulinet* and *Rondeau Le Bijou*, a joyful conclusion to an entertaining recital. For once the weather was co-operative and the refreshments provided were as delicious as usual.

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WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

Yalda Davis (cello) with James Recknell (piano) will perform cello music through the ages - read her blog on crosswaysfarm.co.uk for further details regarding her aim to play the cello in all of Suffolk's mediaeval churches and her journey so far!

If you would like your email added to our recitals
(the second Wednesday of every month) mailing list,
please email
friendsofstmarys@talktalk.net
or
[facebook.com/FriendsOfStMarysHalesworth](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStMarysHalesworth)

A MOMENT IN TIME

Thanks to Ann Wilkinson for organising and to everyone else involved with the mediaeval performance. Hopefully by the time BVT is published there may even be a few snippets on the Facebook page or our website:

www.friendsofstmaryshalesworth.org.uk

which is now back up and running – thanks Steve! We would also like to extend thanks to Norton Peskett Solicitors for their very generous donation towards expenses for the production.

Halesworth Heritage Challenge

1. Where in Halesworth can this mediaeval carving be seen?
2. Who does it represent?
3. In which century was it constructed?



Answers to:
friendsofstmarys@talktalk.net

(Photo courtesy Nathan Berry)

The winner will be decided on Friday 15th November, by a draw if necessary, prize of a bottle awarded shortly thereafter!

50/50 Club Winners for October:

1st Prize: G Woolner

2nd Prize: B Prime

3rd Prize: B Attenborough

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

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BLYTH VALLEY TIMES:

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20^a  **SIGN OF THE FISH** books cards refreshments

As November 11th is looming I thought it quite appropriate to write about bereavement.

When I met a husband or wife whose partner had just died I usually said "I cannot imagine how you are feeling but I do pray for you".

Well now I do know and it is a nightmare. As the song goes "Nothing will ever be the same again". Alastair and I were to celebrate our diamond wedding in eighteen months and as a friend said, "You were such a team". We did everything together, except I never persuaded Alastair to come to our mature dancing class at The Cut and I never went to his engineering and railway meetings, although I supported and still do the Southwold-Halesworth project.

It is not until someone is not there anymore that you fully appreciate all they did. Alastair looked after our finances, kept our cars in good condition and saw we never ran out of petrol. I could discuss anything with him at any time, except before breakfast. We had our regular coffees in the town twice a week, occasional lunches out and we walked our dog, Sparkle, every day. She has not been herself and I am certain dogs, and probably other animals, experience grief too.

Preparing and eating meals on your own is not good. Dutch diners was one of the initiatives that Alastair started for single people to enjoy a meal together at different local pubs once a month. I am having to pluck up courage to go to the next one.

I have found the Bereavement Course run by a local funeral company very helpful. I was not going to attend but someone said, you don't go just for yourself you go for other people. Some have lost people very quickly, others have watched

their partners suffering illness. We did not reach any conclusion about which is worse. Last week was a great help. We had a minister speaking on a video and he said that bereavement affects you in every way, physically and mentally. I had done three stupid things over the weekend and without his words I would have thought I was going mad. I so thank people who have sent cards, letters, telephoned and visited. Please remember those like me who would still appreciate one of these in the winter months ahead. A friend always felt down in the autumn, but I always felt a bit down in the spring. It is different for us all and God has certainly been my rock in the past and continues to be now. I think every child should learn by heart their favourite chorus or hymn so in difficult times they can sing it inwardly every night when they cannot sleep or during the day.

Suggested books:

A Grief Observed by C S Lewis on his experience of bereavement following the death of his wife, Joy Davidman, in 1960.

Towards the Lighthouse, Walking into the Light and Chasing the Leaves, all by Eddie Askew. **Jill Macfarlane**

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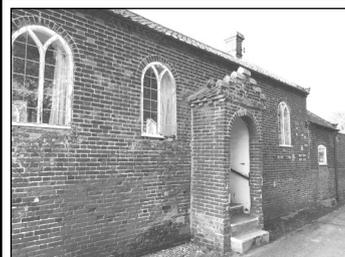
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A Sporting Life¹ - Swimming & Town Sports Days

Competitive swimming was long in coming to Halesworth. A lack of facilities was very much to blame and Halesworth had no facilities for swimming other than the River Blyth. Not that that stopped local people – and children in particular – from enjoying the pleasures of what would now be called ‘wild swimming’ in nearby rivers. The Rectory with its lake was opened to the townspeople on occasion for aquatic sports and boating.

In 1903, the Rector of Halesworth, having noticed an interest in bathing and swimming by young people, invited them to take part in a Water Carnival on the Rectory Lake on Thursday Sept 3rd. A full programme was laid on, with exhibitions of life-saving, a polo match, tub and swimming races. Four years later, perhaps encouraged by this and despite their lack of local facilities, Halesworth Boys School (then on Holton Road) went to Lowestoft to compete with other local schools for the Lady Gooch Challenge Trophy, beating a Lowestoft School team, despite their advantage of having a municipal swimming pool.

The absence of a town swimming pool was to go on for more than another half century. When, in the 1960s, Halesworth formed a Community Council, it set itself an early task of remedying the lack. A new pool was opened in 1972, the opening ceremony being performed by Olympic gold medallist, Judy Grinham. The following year, a swimming club, the Halesworth Dolphins, was formed by Neil Howell, providing a focus for competitive swimming, from which a number of swimmers progressed to higher, even international levels. A number of coaching workshops by international swimmers were held at the Halesworth pool. The closure and demolition of Halesworth pool struck at the heart of swimming in Halesworth but the Dolphins continue and it was only in 2017 that Neil Howell, himself, gave up competitive swimming at the age of 84 partly because of lack of competition, and after over 1000 races and with more than 1000 medals.

And then, in Halesworth’s past, no day of celebration was ever

complete without races on a local field. They may not have been undertaken to rigorous standards, but they were, at least, open to all - and they were fun! Not all of them were serious. Egg-and-spoon races, sack races, pram races and three-legged races were all to be found. But they *were* competitive and they brought the community together.

For a time in the late Victorian years, the Friendly Societies, which played such a large part in the life of the town providing insurance against times of illness for local families, staged ‘Grand Annual Sports’ every Whit Monday, an important feature in the Halesworth calendar, with flat races, hurdling, tug-o-war and obstacle races and – for those up-to-date with new fashions – bicycle races.

The *Halesworth Times* in 1865 records the annual treat for Sunday School children held at The Rectory, with cricket, football, swings and races; and, in May 1868, athletic sports at Broadway Meadows lent by Mr Howlett of Hill House, Wissett. Coronations and jubilees would bring out the most inventive streak. At Queen Victoria’s Jubilee in 1887, in a meadow lent by Mr W Page for Athletic and Rustic Sports, there were walking and bicycle races, tug-o-war, a slow race, a greasy pole, an obstacle race, a wheelbarrow race and masquerade races for those who would take any opportunity to dress up.

Perhaps because of a lack of local facilities, athletics has not, outside school, taken a bigger place in the sporting life of the Halesworth area. Those showing promise have had to move on to clubs like the Ipswich Harriers and the Waveney Valley Athletics Club to pursue their interests and ambitions. **Jenny Janes**

1. The *Sporting Life* was a British newspaper originally priced at one penny (1d) and published 1859-1998

²*This Sporting Life* is a 1963 British drama film based on the 1960 novel of the same name by David Storey



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