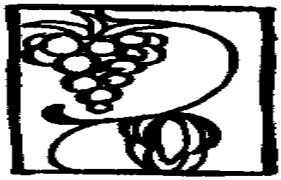
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



April 2024 No:223

Yayy!! The lighter nights are here - now for a bit of sunshine and warmth please! With the clocks changing (hope you remembered) the evenings lengthening, the gardens, allotments and fields should begin to burst into life. Such an exciting time of year. Wasn't it lovely to receive the beautiful primula on behalf of St Clare Church to celebrate Mothering Sunday, a beautiful burst of colour. Thank you to those who provided and delivered these.The new Church opening and flower rota is out - this means our beautiful church will now be open at weekends - why not pop in if you are passing.

Well done to Sue and Clive Leal on a lively entertaining quiz - fabulous amount raised for Prostate Cancer - make a note of the date for the next one - **Friday 17 May.** Due to the outstanding success tables MUST be booked with Clive to avoid disappointment. See advert for more details.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 28 September, BARN DANCE at BISHOPS FARM,Benefice Fundraiser Pay Bar and BBQ. Additional information and tickets to follow.

Breaking News: A very successful Litter Pick on Saturday 23 March. Fourteen people braved the cold wind to collect 8 bags of rubbish which will be picked up by the council. That's fewer bags than last year which must be a positive thing - hopefully it means less rubbish is thoughtlessly being discarded.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear friends

April is supposed to be the month that brings showers, although I'm sure everyone has had enough of those! We especially don't want them for our events this month, you can find details of these on the services and events page. There's always lots going on in the villages of the benefice which I think is what makes village life so special. I pray that more people in our villages will come along to these events and make new friends and support the organisations of the village at the same time.

Friendship, or fellowship as we often call it in Church, is a precious gift. Jesus chose a group of men and women to be his close friends, but also welcomed everyone to be his friend. In John's gospel (John 15:15) Jesus said: 'I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known you.'

Jesus invites us to be in a relationship with Him, and also to be in relationship with one another. That famous quote from the poem by John Donne "No man is an island" comes to mind when I think about human existence. God made us to live in community, and to care for one another.

It is easy to lose a friendship by a careless word or act, or to lose touch with someone we haven't seen for a while. I have pledged to myself that this Spring I am going to get in touch with someone I haven't spoken to for a while and have a catch up. And I pray that God will protect those friendships that are precious to me and help me to strengthen them even more. Who knows what blessings they will bring?

with every good wish

Sharon

Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com,
01284 828599, 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events
April 2024

Saturday 6 April	2.30pm Afternoon Tea at Cockfield Church
Sunday 7 April Easter 2	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham
Saturday 13 April	10am-12.30pm Plant & Vintage Tools Sale - Gt Whelnetham Church (in aid of Gt Whelnetham Church and Bury Drop-in Centre)
Sunday 14 April Easter 3	10am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield 10.30am Communion CW - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Saturday 20 April	7pm 'The Roman Remains of Sicklesmere' talk by Andy Peachey - Gt Whelnetham Community Centre (in aid of Gt Whelnetham Church)
Sunday 21 April Easter 4	9.30am Morning Prayer CW - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion CW - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer CW - Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 28 April Easter 5	9.30am Communion CW - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion BCP - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at ***www.cockfieldbenefice.com***

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is normally held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am. For more details contact Canon Sharon, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284-828599 or 07825086063

Church News



This month it's a report full of grateful thanks. March 8th saw the return of the Shantyfolk, for a lively evening of music and food at St George Village Hall. Once again the evening proved a great success, with 90 people in attendance. And of course, it involved a lot of hard work by members of our village. Particular thanks must go to so many - the team of men who assembled and disassembled the hall – Ian Dowling, Gerry Bullard, Jim Nunn, Will Holden and John Kirk, ably assisted late on Friday night by Trudy Mann, Matt and Lottie May: Val Nunn and Lorraine Morley, who did splendid work in selling raffle tickets, which raised £250 of the grand total: in the kitchen enormous thanks must go to Sue Leal and also to Katharine and Charles Robson from Great Barton, who all worked tirelessly. Charles definitely earned his dishwasher badge! Thanks too to those helping in the hall, Keith Payne, Mike Morley and Gerard and to the Stainers for running the bar. Lovely puddings, so thank you Sue Leal, Diane Bullard and Margaret Lovick. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me. I'm suffering from brain fade after cooking for 90 people!

The hard work was all worth it, as we raised a total of just over £1100. Well done, everyone!

We hope that everyone enjoyed their mothering day primulas for Mothering Sunday, delivered by Lorraine and Mike Morley. Don't

forget to plant them out in the garden, when they have finished flowering.

Special thanks this month to Adam and Sarah for designing and printing the lovely church opening/flower rota and thank you in advance to everyone who helps with flowers and opening.

Lastly a reminder that the Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride is on 14th September this year. Training has begun and I will be pestering you for sponsorship later in the year.

Happy Easter from everyone at St Clare Church.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 18 April at 2pm
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month along with tea and refreshments there will be a St George's Day quiz!

Village Friends is an over 65's friendship group of men and women from various villages who meet once a month
All welcome, just come along

If you require transport please contact:
Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063
revsharon2@gmail.com or
Susan Metcalf 07925 867221
st.metcalf@btinternet.com

Sponsored by the Cockfield Benefice **VILLAGE FRIENDS**

KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

Our next opening will be: Saturday, 20th April from 11 am – 1 pm
This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE Why not make a date in your diary?

Please come and join friends and neighbours (past and present) for coffee, tea, cakes and savouries. Pop in for five minutes or stay for the whole two hours. There are games, colouring books and pencils to keep our younger visitors amused. We have quite a selection of books in the hall too so please feel free to take some home to read. There are also a few jigsaws that can be borrowed/exchanged. There is something for everyone at the Kit Café and you can be sure of a very warm welcome, delicious treats, endless cups of tea and (our much admired) coffee plus plenty of lively chat.

Any offers of help in the kitchen or setting up would be most welcome. Equally donations of cakes or savouries would be much appreciated. It's always nice to see somebody turning up with a sample of their favourite recipe!

Sadly we decided to cancel our March opening due to the road closure meaning those coming from the Cockfield direction would have a long diversion. As it turned out the road was opened that Saturday morning as I discovered after going the long way round to Cockfield shop! Fingers crossed there will be no such problems this time and we look forward to welcoming everyone again.

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

Cheese Biscuits

Ingredients

250g extra-mature cheddar, chunked

250g salted butter straight from the fridge, chunked

250g plain flour

Tabasco sauce

Dijon mustard

Salt and pepper

Method

Put cheese, butter and flour into food processor. Add 12 shakes of Tabasco, 1 heaped tablespoon mustard, 25 grinds of pepper and 2 teaspoons salt [this is what the recipe says, but I don't add salt]; adjust flavourings to taste.

Whizz until it starts to form a ball. Divide into three.

Lay out three large pieces of clingfilm. With slightly damp hands roughly shape each lump of dough into a sausage. Roll up in the clingfilm and then ease into a sausage about 5cm across.

Freeze until you are ready to use. Do NOT try to use the dough unfrozen.

Take the parcels out of the freezer and heat the oven to 200/Fan 180/Gas 6. By the time it has heated the dough will have thawed enough to cut into slices as thick as you want.

Line a baking tray with parchment and arrange the slices on it. Cook for about 10 minutes until golden brown.

Best eaten on the day but the cooked biscuits freeze well [although we have never had any left to try this…].Sue Leal



News From Homefield

It's hard to know where to start for these writings. After all the wet days there are a lot of jobs outside the house waiting to be done. I managed to rotavate the allotment on 7th March but since then nothing has moved. We still have sprouts, swede, carrots and a few rogue spring onions on the allotment. In the store the potatoes are now finished, and the onions and garlic are diminishing fast. However, due to Debbie's 'if it will freeze, bag it' we have a good supply of broad, runner and dwarf beans. Fruit was also plentiful last year so a good supply of raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries and redcurrants, even rhubarb but I'm not sure which category that falls in! I have broad beans in pots, along with garlic ready to plant out when it dries. I know that everybody is in the same boat with the weather, but for the first time in my life I have just spent two hours in the middle of the afternoon watching 'Great Expectations'. It wasn't until I was writing this that I realised the irony of that statement...as ever, mother nature will sort it all out.

Now to the sheep, who like the allotment, don't like wet weather. There have been a few foot problems and when you turn the sheep over to trim their feet it's like holding a sponge. Hopefully they are in lamb (except Stephen) but just looking at them doesn't tell you a lot. They might be growing in size or just wet!

I was checking to see when I first started writing in the Grapevine and, lo and behold, it was April 2014 - so its ten years.

I know it's cheating but I hope you'll forgive my reminiscing. Oh how times have changed - some bits I miss and some….I don't!

A View from Pitchers Green Farm (2014)

Facts: 33 Cows in Milk
2 Dry
3 In-Calf Heifers
23 Young Stock (4 months to 16 months)
Average Milk Yield 1000 litres every other day

When this is published, hopefully the cows will be out on grass! It has been a mild but wet winter, thankfully with no frozen water pipes. However, two big round bales of straw everyday for bedding has meant the cows can nearly reach the roof of the big yard; Sheila the Shorthorn enjoys pushing the guttering to make it creak. She thinks it's funny - wait until she gets the repair bill.
There is only one cow due to calve in March. Her name is Martha and she is in-calf to a Jersey Bull, so we are hoping for a female (heifer) calf for herd replacement in two year's time.
Work that needs doing before (or indeed after) turnout includes chain harrowing and aerating the grass; applying nitrogen fertiliser to boost growth and a bit of sun and warmth to get it all going and off we go again…..

Disclaimer: Any female names mentioned in the above are purely coincidental and for cow identification only and bear no resemblance to any of the local ladies.

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PROSTATE CANCER UK

VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISER Held on 23 FEBRUARY

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the good people who turned out for my quiz last Friday.

35 quizzers came, with friends from Rattlesden, Bradfield St George, Cockfield and Sicklesmere as well as our own Bradfield St Clare contingent. The village hall was almost full to capacity and, I hope, everyone enjoyed the evening.

Competition was fierce but friendly and at the end only a couple of points separated the top three teams with Margaret Faiers “Windy Willows” trio emerging triumphant.

The funds raised in the hall amounted to a magnificent £315, which indicates the generosity shown by participants. By the time we added in some donations by people who could not be there we finished up with

£425.50!!!

This has now been paid to Prostate Cancer UK.

We aim to make this a quarterly fixture with further quizzes in May, August and November. Details in the Grapevine. Whilst Prostate Cancer UK is personally close to our hearts, we are, of course, open to suggestions as to other charities to support.

Clive and Sue Leal

Next Charity Quiz

Friday 18 May 2024
Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
At 7.30pm

No Specific entry fee - we will leave that to your discretion. There will be a small prize for the winners.

Teams of four, bring your own drinks, tea and coffee making facilities will be available.

It is hoped that this will be a quarterly event and May's will be in aid of Prostate Cancer Uk.

Due to limited space and the popularity of the evening you must book your table please, call Clive Leal on
07717 823 525

CHURCHYARD BIG CLEAN UP

Saturday 13 April 2004
10am - 12 noon

Please come and help us if you are able to, every little helps. Thank you.

Bradfield Weather

Feb 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2022	Feb 2023	Feb 2024
68 mm	38 mm	42 mm	6 mm	128 mm
March 2020	**March 2021**	**March 2022**	**March 2023**	**March 2024**
16.5 mm	34.5 mm	30.5 mm	86.5 mm	

ENOUGH. RAIN. NOW.

Shall we stick with last month's theme? I don't see why not – although at the time of writing we have had a few days of mild dry weather and it feels like Spring has truly burst which brings a much needed cheer to the weather reporter!

February was the warmest in England and one of the wettest but East Anglia broke records for both the warmest and wettest February since records began. The MET office recorded 106.4mm across the month in EA – and we topped that by over 20mm! Our 30yr average is around 43mm; we've had bang on 3 times that (well, not quite bang on but I'm not quibbling over 1mm!). In theory March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb: this year it came in like a damp squib and the first two weeks remained distinctly squib like (not entirely sure what a squib is, I've just looked it up – it's a small firework, this simile doesn't really work but I was focussing on the damp!). But we're past the Spring equinox so things are only going to get better…

The garden is bursting into life and although early bulbs were disappointing (crocuses don't enjoy sitting in water or being eaten by muntjac) it looks like it's going to be a good year for Snakes head Fritillaries and Camassias both of which enjoy a damp winter (provided they can avoid being eaten) – the battle/balance of garden vs nature continues!

Alice Ward-Thomas 22 March 2024

The Library Van Dates 2024

Contact: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Telephone: 01473 351249
The Library Van will call at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall from **9.40am until 9.55am** on the following dates:

3 April	21 August
1 May	28 September
29 May	16 October
26 June	13 November
24 July	11 December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Easter Bins	
Friday 5 April	***Blue Bin***
Wednesday 10 April	***Brown Bin***
Thursday 11 April	***Black Bin***
Back to Normal Collection	
Wednesday 17 April	Blue Bin
Tuesday 23 April	Brown Bin
Wednesday 24 April	Black Bin
Wednesday 1 May	Blue Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Village Hall Whist Drive



There was a very low turnout again for our March whist drive due in part to road closures at Felsham which put off some of our regulars. There were seven of us in all so we had to play the dummy which made for some interesting games. There was no separate prize for men and ladies and the highest score was Shirley on 166, second place was Jim with 164 and Jus was third with 160. The booby prize went to John this month with a score of 148. Despite the poor turnout everyone enjoyed some really close games and we even decided to fill in a score card for the Dummy … thank goodness s/he didn't win or it would have been quite embarrassing!

If you enjoy playing cards please consider coming along. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided at the half way mark giving everyone a chance for a quick chat. Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 5th April at 7.30 pm.** There is also a prize draw the proceeds of which go towards village hall funds for the upkeep of the hall. **Donations of draw prizes would be much appreciated.**

For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

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April Fools' Day

April Fools' Day, in most countries, is the first day of April. It received its name from the custom of playing practical jokes on this day. For example, telling friends that their shoelaces are untied or sending them on so-called fools' errands. Although the day has been observed for centuries, its true origins are unknown and effectively unknowable. It resembles festivals such as the Hilaria of ancient Rome, held on March 25, and the Holi celebration in India, which ends on March 31.

How did April Fools' Day start?

Some have proposed that the modern custom originated in France, officially with the Edict of Roussillon (promulgated in August 1564), in which Charles IX decreed that the new year would no longer begin on Easter, as had been common throughout Christendom, but rather on January 1. Because Easter was a lunar and therefore moveable date, those who clung to the old ways were the "April Fools." Others have suggested that the timing of the day may be related to the vernal equinox (March 21), a time when people are fooled by sudden changes in the weather.

(edited from Wikipedia)

Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water - Emergencies	03457 145145
Borough Council	St Edmundsbury Offices - 01284 763233
Local Member	Sarah Mildmay-White - 01359 270580 Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbc.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Village Halll Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bra dfield Grapevine Magazine	Mrs Debbie Thomas - 01284 386302 stclaregrapevine@gmail.com Mrs Margaret Lovick - 01284 386662
Bury Stray Cat Fund	01284 388455
Charity for the Relief in Sickness	Secretary: Mrs Vicky Spall - 01284 386357
Suffolk County Council Switchboard	01284 763233
Local Councillor	Mrs Karen Soons - 07864601887 Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk
Dentist (Emergency)	By appointment Sat and Sun pm 0300 130 3065
Doctor – Suffolk Doctors on Call	Ring your own Surgery
	Or alternatively call 111
Electricity	UK Power Networks Supply Faults 0800 783 8838
Footpath Warden	Mrs Fenella Fraser - 01284 388310
Gospel Hall	Mr Keith Arknett - 01359 240910
Mobile Library	Mr Carl Bell - 07721 879855
Member of Parliament	Mrs Jo Churchill - 01284 752311 www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk
Neighbourhood Watch Contact	Mrs Dianne Bullard - 01284 386598
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs Nicola Sturgeon - 07817170906
Parish Council Website	http://bradfieldstclare.one Suffolk.net
Police	101 (non-urgent) 999 (urgent)
Post office Delivery Office	01284 358201
Schools:Cockfield Primary	01284 828287
Thurston Community College	01359 230885
West Suffolk College	01284 701301
St Clare Church	Rev. Canon Sharon Potter revsharon2@gmail.com 01284 828599 / 07825 086063
St Edmunds RC Church	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358