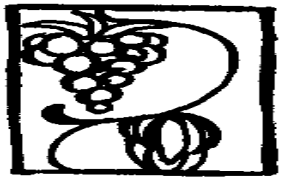
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



August 2026 No:248

Dear Neighbours,

After another hot and very dry month, I hope everyone is managing to cope with the hosepipe ban and the continuing warm weather. It will be interesting to see what August has in store for us.

This month's Grapevine is another full edition, with plenty of news and updates from around the village. Inside you'll find the latest from Home Field, a new recipe to try, and all the usual community news that helps keep us connected.

As always, thank you to everyone who has contributed. If you have news to share or would like to advertise in a future edition, please do get in touch. Your support helps keep the Grapevine going for the whole village.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader

June and July have been very busy months and I am looking forward to having a couple of weeks off from Mid-August. It has certainly been very warm of late, but I'm sure the weather will change once I'm on holiday! Or will it? I was one of around forty people who recently gathered together to watch the 'People's Emergency Briefing' film. It is a film that with the worlds top scientists giving the facts about global warming and its effects. On the one hand I felt quite depressed after watching the film, but on the other hand there is hope for the future - if governments act now.

Some people might think that this is not something for the Church to be concerned with, but this is not the case. Our diocese has a 'Creation Care' group that considers how the Anglican church in Suffolk can assist all those who worship in our Churches across Suffolk (and there is an average weekly attendance in our Churches of 22,000 to 25,000 of regular worshippers) to think about the issues of climate change and how we can take practical action to care for God's earth. St Peter's here in Cockfield is registered with a programme called A Rocha Eco Church. We have undertaken a survey about our worship and teaching, our buildings and energy, our land and nature, our community and global engagement and lifestyle in the this area. The programme makes awards to Churches, and I am very pleased to say that St Clare has a bronze award!

So we take our stewardship of the earth very seriously, and we are very concerned for the future of the earth and those who come after us - especially our children and grandchildren. We know that our children are very worried too and they often bring these issues up with clergy as we visit schools to take assemblies.

I pray that we together we can change the way in which we view our world's resources, and the way in which we use them. If you are interested in these issues too then do get in touch as we'd love to work with you.

God bless you and your families as always,

Canon Sharon
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284 828599 or 07825086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - August 2026

Saturday 1 August	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall, refreshments and a space to craft/knit/crochet/sew. All welcome!
Sunday 2 August **Trinity 9**	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celti-style Communion at Felsham
Sunday 9 August **Trinity 10**	10am Morning Prayer at Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship at Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 11 August	11am Holy Communion at Felsham Church followed by soup and sandwiches. All welcome!
Sunday 16 August **Trinity 11**	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 10am Café Church at Felsham Village Hall 10.30am Holy Communion at Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 23 August **Trinity 12**	9.30am Holy Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10.00am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 30 August **Trinity 13**	8.00am Holy Communion at Cockfield 10.30am Morning Prayer at Lt Whelnetham (followed by a White Elephant Stall in the Churchyard)

A service of Celtic-style Morning Prayer is usually held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am.*Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com*.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

an over 65's friendship group

there will not be in a meeting in August
we meet again on **Thursday 17 September**
2-4pm at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall
Booking Essential!

If you would like to come please contact:
Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063
revsharon2@gmail.com
(drivers are able to provide lifts, just let Canon Sharon know)

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

John Skelly Fish Limited

Brings fresh fish from Lowestoft to you locally in Bradfield St Clare

When: Every Friday

Where: Bush Cottage @ 9.40am and Village Hall Car Park @ 9.50am

KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

Our next opening will be:
Saturday, 15 August from 11 am – 1 pm

Tea, Coffee (as much as you can drink)

Cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, scones

This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE
Why not make a date in your diary?

There is something for everyone at the Kit Café and you can be sure of a very warm welcome and plenty of lively chat.

To those of you who enjoy a challenge you may like to have a go at Pat's monthly quiz. No prizes but very entertaining.

If anyone would like to contribute a cake or savoury item we would be most grateful.

Village Hall Whist Drive



Our next whist drive will be held on
Friday, 7th August

Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the half way stage. 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.**

Last month's winner was Val with a score of 173.

We are always on the lookout for new players. So if you or anyone you know enjoys playing cards please come along. Whist is a simple game and lots of fun but it's much more enjoyable when there are a few more tables.

For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

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Bradfield Weather

June 2022	June 2023	June 2024	June 2025	June 2026
38mm	27mm	20 mm	23 mm	35mm
July 2022	**July 2023**	**July 2024**	**July 2025**	**July 2026**
2.5mm	72.5 mm	86 mm	48 mm	0mm

We've had no rain since 27th June as far as I can tell, it feels like much longer. Is it the hosepipe ban that makes me feel this or is it that our garden is open for the NGS this Sunday?! Whatever it is, it's made me realise that I need to re-think a lot of our garden. The drought tolerant planting in the gravel garden has mostly said 'Drought, what drought?' but the big perennial garden (did I mention it feature on Gardeners' World ha ha?!!) is struggling in parts. No rain thus far in July – the pathetic smatter on Sunday morning didn't register even a quarter of a mm in our rain gauge.

A farming friend posted from his combine on social media this week that crop yields were low. He then went on to explain why this was really excellent news and made us all laugh. I feel slightly the same about why no rain is good for gardens. We've been keeping fit loading watering cans to keep young trees alive. We've saved so much money by not needing fuel for a mower. We've learned so much from the plants that have died!

It's that time of year again for the Big Butterfly Count. Our garden has been loaded with them this year and I spent several days watching what I came to regard as my pet caterpillars growing on the nettle patches, since which time the garden has been full of peacock butterflies. Apparently bumblebees have been suffering from over-heating. Advice is to have as many flowers as possible to keep them well hydrated and fuelled.

I hope to see some of you on Sunday – the garden won't be perfect but you will be given a very warm welcome and, thanks to Lorraine and her team, refreshments too!

Alice Ward-Thomas (27/7/26)

Library Van update

The route 6 library bus still stops at Bradfield St George (Holly Bush Corner at 9:35 - 9:50) and Cockfield (Windsor Green (10:05-10:25) on the following days:

Wed 19 Aug 2026	Wed 11 Nov 2026
Wed 16 Sep 2026	Wed 9 Dec 2026
Wed 14 Oct 2026	

Contact: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Telephone: 01473 35124

BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 7th August	Black Bin (and food waste)
Friday 14th August	Blue Bin (and food waste)
Friday 21st August	Black Bin (and food waste)
Friday 28th August	Grey with green lid (and food waste)
Saturday 5th Sep (due to bank holiday)	Black Bin (and food waste)

For more information, including links to download all leaflets can be found here:

https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/better-recycling/

Church Wardens Report

As of now, I will no longer be your church warden. It is with deep regret I have to give up but you are all in the very capable hands of Mr Adrian Keitley-Webb. I know he will look after our church and village to the best of his ability.

I'm also so pleased that you have all stepped up to help Lorraine on Sunday 2nd August. The service on the 2nd August will be at 10am not 11am.

Best Wishes from your church

Margaret



News from Home Field



I've just finished potato digging for this year, all being done in the morning before the heat gets hold. Francis, a first early, were a bit disappointing yield wise. Next were Charlotte and Marfona, noticeably better in size, but saving the best to last, were Saxon, which were the best for size and yield. The last three varieties were second earlies and all four varieties were planted on 6th April and harvested on July 14th. Of course, there are many other varieties of seed potatoes available! All in all, a good crop considering the frost in May, which burnt all the leaves off. They have been sorted and stored in Hessian sacks in the container. Debbie will freeze a few ready for Christmas.

We are currently harvesting beetroot, dwarf beans and the odd lettuce, if we can get to them before it bolts upwards. The onions are beginning to bulk up a bit now, red and white, all grown from seed. The pumpkins, courgettes and squashes have all gone crazy! The trouble is, the courgettes especially, grow overnight and become too big for the niche market I'm looking for…I just wanted to get the word niche in, just got to look up what it means and see if it's p.c. to use it. There is one pumpkin that has turned bright orange already, it can't wait ‘til October.

I don't water the allotment, except when putting out new plants, and only for two or three days, so the squashes must have put down deep roots. I am not planting any more parsnip seed this year, three sowings has to be plenty of chances but nothing has come. Being a bit

frugal (tight), the garlic was bought from a large supermarket, two bulbs for £1.25. The cloves grew well and should keep us going over winter at least. The only problem was they were a hard neck variety so you can't plait them to store, thank goodness for baler twine.

The adult sheep have all been shorn, re-treated with fly repellent and moved down to the field opposite the farm. There is a bit of grass down there but with the lambs growing fast they may need a bit extra feed. One of the sheep, Stephen, has moved home to start a new chapter of his life down the road, as a companion for Craig, another pet sheep. He seems very happy and content. The ‘’flying flock' have all moved out to pastures new in search of grass. What we need is a good drop of rain, however, with all the combines buzzing around I am prepared to wait a while. The arable boys only get one chance to get their harvest right in the year. I tried three times with my parsnips and can afford to leave it for this year.

Glyn

Carpentry Project - wooden chicken coop

Vintage chicken coop in need of refurbishment - wood with iron wheels in Bradfield St Clare.
A suitable project for anyone with basic carpentry skills.



Dimensions:
W 300cm D 120cm H 110cm
Free/small donation to church funds
If interested, text 07799880724

Donald

Iris Presley

It is with some regret that I have to report the death of Iris Presley.

She was 94 and lived in the village for many years and was a dedicated mother. She was also a great embroidery artist.

She had a good country funeral and I hope her family approved. Best wishes to the family for your life together.

Lee Jardine
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Pat's page of "pleas"

I'm writing this from a bed in a surgical ward in W.S.H where I'm being treated for a severe infection of my gall bladder (yet again), probably the last thing on earth I feel like doing - mind over matter, so here it goes.

As a few of you know, I'm having to have fairly regular blood transfusions to "keep me going" there is nothing less than a life lived. As I sit for over 3 1/2 hours, having blood drip slowly (like watching paint dry), I think of the wonderful person who's made this possible (every single donation can save 3 lives) and wonder who they were - and am eternally grateful for their kindness. You don't get paid for this - all you get is a cup of tea and maybe a biscuit - scant reward for such an altruistic gesture. Blood is so good in so many ways - major surgery, dialysis, R.T.A's, any accident. Blood only has a fairly short shelf life so the blood bank is constantly looking for new and repeat donors. So, I do beg you, if you have ever considered donation - stop! Don't think anymore - act! I'm sure if you go online you can find the easiest way to give - they regularly have a day or two in Angel Hill the Atheneum. Not everyone is suitable but you won't know unless you apply - who knows, someone may save your life one day. What a gift!

My other 'plea' is for some willing, relatively strong, not necessarily young men! I have a dozen fence panels being delivered during the first week of August to replace the decrepit ones down the side of St Clare Cottage/St Clare hall road. Due to our fencing wizard Malcolm Keymer, late of this village, we have concrete posts and the panels just slot in and out easily (in theory) just lift one out, slot new one in "simples". Several of you have very kindly expressed an interest in helping me - wonderful. It can be done at any time (probably better a couple of you?). Even better if you can take the panels away and use for kindling or fire wood? Anyway, beer and sandwiches and my eternal thanks and many 'brownie points' and definitely a Blue Peter Badge! Thank you so very much in advance,

Pat Hipwell - 01284 386636

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Courgette and Brie Soup.

450g courgette - sliced
2 medium potatoes - say, about 350g, peeled and chopped
1 onion finely chopped
1l vegetable stock (I use Marigold Bouillon stock powder or Oxo veg cube, and slightly more than a litre of water).
225g Somerset brie, remove end rind and cut into pieces.

Put all ingredients except the brie into a large saucepan.
Cover and bring to the boil, then simmer for 15mins until the vegetables are tender.
Stir in the cheese until melted
Blend until smooth, season to taste and serve with lovely buttered warm bread.

Debbie Thomas

Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water - Emergencies	03457 145145
Borough Council	St Edmundsbury Offices - 01284 763233
Local Member	Sara Mildmay-White - 01359 270580 Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbc.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830 / 07483245825
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine	Sarah Pittard - 07816754163 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	Bobby Bennett - 07813551959 bobby.bennett@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	Peter Prinsley - Labour peter.prinsley.mp@parliment.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	Father Sean Connolly 01284 754358

Hire Bradfield St Clare Village Hall for just £12 per hour!

Contact Val Nunn for bookings (details above)