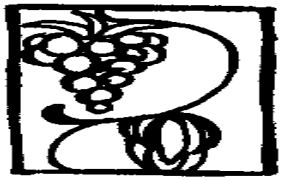
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



August 2024 No:227

So, the summer holiday period is upon us and at time of writing the weather seems to think so too! Cereal harvests have started, bales have appeared in the fields and we still have a decent length evening.

Clive and Sue Leal's next Charity Quiz is on Friday 16 August if you feel like flexing the little grey cells. Always entertaining and a jolly good evening out .

Is there anyone out there who can take up Keith's challenge to join our regular Church Bike Ride enthusiasts? Please contact him if you would like to join in this great fundraising opportunity on **Saturday 14th September.**

This is closely followed by another energetic opportunity to support the Benefice by attending the Barn Dance at Bishops Farm on **Saturday 28 September** - a ticket only event so don't delay in getting your tickets from Lorraine.

Following on from our regular Kit Cafe on **Saturday 17 August,** please make a special note for the BIG MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING to be held on **Saturday 21 September**.

A very busy village schedule - thank you to everyone who organises and supports all these events. We really do live in a wonderful community.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader,
Having recovered from the recent defeat of the England football team, I'm now looking forward to the Olympics in Paris (not in person of course!). I admire those who work hard to be the best in their chosen sport and love the variety of competitions that happen at both the Olympics and the Paralympics.

It not only takes skill to be a good footballer or athlete - but perseverance and discipline. Hours of practice along with paying attention to diet and sleep patterns really helps too.

So what sort of skill does it take to be a follower of Jesus?
I would say that it doesn't take a lot of skill - but a little discipline goes a long way. Learning about Jesus through the Bible stories that we hear or read, following his teaching, and being part of a group that praises God on a regular basis would for me be the basic skills for being a Christian.

The Bible uses metaphors in various contexts to convey spiritual and moral lessons, and St Paul employs the imagery of a race to highlight the importance of perseverance and discipline in the Christian life. In 1 Corinthians 9.24-25 he says:

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

In other words, he is encouraging believers to approach their Christian journey with purpose, discipline, and the goal of an eternal reward.

England's footballers may not have reached their goal of winning a silver trophy, but they have shown us that perseverance, discipline and purpose can bring other rewards, such as friendship and respect for one another. But who knows....maybe in 2026.....

Yours in Christ,
Sharon
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - August 2024

Saturday 3 August	5-6.30pm 'Simply Saxaphones' at Cockfield Church - a free late afternoon concert, wine and nibbles, donations to St Peter's Church.
Sunday 4 August Trinity 10	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham
Sunday 11 August Trinity 11	10am Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism - Cockfield 10.30am Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 15 August	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall - Tea, raffle and 'bring 'n' buy' sale
Sunday 18 August Trinity 12	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 25 August Trinity 13	9.30am Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George
Sunday 1 September Trinity 14	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham

A service of Celtic 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***

Fundraising for Cockfield Benefice

BENEFICE BARN DANCE

Raising money for all 9 churches within the Benefice.

Bring **cash** for raffle, bar & extra BBQ food.



Contact Lorraine Morley or church wardens for tickets.

BBQ AND PAY BAR

Music and dance direction from the **Deneside Ramblers**

Meat sourced from **Thurston Butchers**

Bar hosted by **Red House**, Stanningfield

Ticket includes 1 free visit to BBQ

TICKETS

ADULTS - £15

UP TO YR6 - £10

UNDER 5 - FREE

Bishops Farm, Bradfield St Clare, IP30 0AW

28 SEP

7 PM TO 11 PM

CONTACT LORRAINE MORLEY FOR TICKETS

07742151667 / logmorley@yahoo.co.uk

BENEFICE BARN DANCE

This event is to support the whole benefice, Cockfield, Bradfield St.Clare, Bradfield St.George with Little Welnetham, Felsham and Gedding, Stanningfield, Great Welnetham and Bradfield Combust.

Tickets **MUST** be purchased prior to the event please (no on the door sales), for catering and insurance purposes. Tickets available from each Church representative or Lorraine Morley (contact details on poster.)

Please bring some cash with you for raffle tickets, bar and second helpings of the BBQ!

Parking will be sign posted at **Hagglesdon House** with accessible parking at **Bishops Farm**.

Please can you support this worthy cause by donating a raffle prize in advance to Bishops Farm or with any of the other Church representatives.
Contributions of gift bags (can be used but in good condition please) and items to help us make up gift bag raffle prizes so,for example bathroom bits, kitchen bits, gardening, Pets, alcohol, chocolate, grocery etc.., OR Vouchers, would be gratefully received.

Any contributions great or small would support this cause.

Thank you.

Book tickets early to avoid disappointment!!

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The annual Ride and Stride is held on the second Saturday in September, which this year falls on the 14th – which sounds like ideal cycling weather!

Our faithful four have given wonderful service in recent years, but this time around have some problems due to the date, so it would be nice if we could have a couple – or more – newcomers this year although the four are hoping to find a way.

For those not familiar with Ride and Stride, the idea is to cycle or walk to any number of churches in Suffolk, getting sponsorship on the basis of so much per church, or per mile covered – or more usually nowadays a flat fee.

Of the sponsorship money raised, half goes to the church for which you are riding and the other half to the Trust, who offer grants to Suffolk's many ancient churches requiring money for repairs or improvements such as disabled access or toilets.

Churches are usually manned, so a warm welcome and refreshments can be expected at those visited.

The event takes place between 9am to 5pm on 14th September. If you are interested, further details can be obtained by contacting 01284 386169.

Plant and Produce Stall - Linden House

The stall has been supported both by donations to sell and people to buy. If you are passing stop and have a look - there may be something you need!
All proceeds from this support St Clare Church. £25 raised this month. Thank you

VILLAGE FRIENDS
The next meeting will be on
Thursday 15 August
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

2-4pm

This month we will be hosting a local bee expert who will be talking about **Life in the Hive** - All welcome!

Village Friends is an over 65's friendship group of men and women from various villages in the area who meet once a month
If you require transport please contact:

Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063
revsharon2@gmail.com
or
Susan Metcalf 07925 867221 or st.metcalf@btinternet.com

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

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Next Charity Quiz

Friday 16 August 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.

Charity Nominated for this month is Cancer Research UK.

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

KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

Our next opening will be: Saturday, 17th August 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 had a fantastic turnout for our July opening. The weather was beautiful and Malcolm and Gerard kindly allowed the sun worshippers among us to sit in their garden. Once again there were some delicious tasty treats so many thanks to everyone who made something and brought it along. I could hear several recipes being exchanged after sampling the delights! The atmosphere was buzzing and it's so rewarding to see friends and neighbours past and present enjoying a good old natter.

There has always been a strong sense of community in Bradfield St Clare so those of you who have not yet managed to find time to come to one of our openings, or maybe you feel a little shy, please give it a go. You can be sure of a very warm welcome. We promise there will always be something to do and somebody to talk to and, as you can tell from the above, you certainly won't go away hungry!

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!
For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.



ADVANCE NOTICE:

For our September opening on Saturday, 21st September we will be raising money for the MacMillan Coffee Morning charity.

Please make a note in your diary and come along.

Also if you have any ideas for fundraising please share it with us. We have a little time to plan so any suggestions would be most welcome.

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.



Bradfield Weather

June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	June 2024
69mm	46.5mm	38mm	27mm	20 mm
July 2020	**July 2021**	**July 2022**	**July 2023**	**July 2024**
46.5mm	61.5mm	2.5mm	72.5 mm	[85 mm - 20th]

Shortly after submitting last month's report the Heavens opened and we had 57mm of rain in a week! For the eagle eyed amongst you, yes I have just copied and pasted that from June's Grapevine, but it amused me (and actually applied to the 1st week of July not the last week of June). And yes, I am aware that I was muttering about the soil becoming dry so the deluge of July is entirely my fault. Sorry. Having said that, we've just enjoyed a 2nd week of Suffolk summer in as many months, requiring sun cream and sit downs in the shade so what more could we ask for?!!! (Answers to Editor not me, thank you.)

Tom-from-across-the-road's weather station has recorded a high of 32.5C and a low of 7.4C during a couple of chilly nights around the 6th/7th with an average of 16.8C overall. Although the high temperature of the past few days is subsiding, according to my wildly inaccurate phone the weather looks reasonable for the rest of the month.

Although there has been an almost alarming lack of insects thus far this year, they are suddenly out and about and the garden is full of buzzing. I was delighted to count 65 Peacock butterfly caterpillars on a large clump of nettles we'd left in the parkland here and although not all of the five baby swallows made it through the sudden few hot days at the end of June (they're nesting under a corrugated roof – not ideal), three of them fledged and the mother is sitting again. Fingers crossed for a second brood. If you have 15 minutes, please try and do the Big Butterfly Count which runs until 4th August – the sunshine has finally brought the butterflies who have had a tough spring and early summer with all the wet. Alice Ward-Thomas (20/07/24)

News from Homefield



Well, here goes with another first for me, composing my bit for the Grapevine whilst babysitting for our grandaughter. It's 5.30 am, so an early shift today, but hopefully my memory of last month's events should be sharper, if I could just remember where I left my pen!

In the allotment or "weed bed" as it's now known as, it's definitely a mixed bag this year. The potatoes got blight in late June so I cut all the tops off (when it stops raining I'll burn them) and left them for a couple of weeks before lifting. Obviously the yield is down but the speed the blight went through them I'll take what I've got. They are stored in hessian sacks in the container as usual but I check them more often for any rotten ones. I've lifted the garlic and white onions - both very good yields and size. Carrots alongside the onions have done well but beetroot have failed miserably. Runner beans (variety Lady Di) have done very well again this year, early and prolific. They were started in the poly tunnel, planted out in March, stood still for two weeks and have never looked back. Dwarf beans however are another failure, thankfully it's not too late to plant another sowing. The raspberries have done well but needed picking every day or they quickly started to deterioate, strawberries yielded well but the slugs started to move in which is not allowed!! I cut all the leaves off the strawberries to take the canopy away and let the sun in and this did the trick. There is a frog that has lived in the strawberry patch for a number of years - he takes great delight in making me 'jump' whilst I'm picking. I should

have thought about my last sentence, the frog startles me and is NOT now my personal trainer.
Redcurrants, Blackcurrants and gooseberries are all frozen down or in jam, shame they are so fiddly to pick. The golden raspberry bush which was very prolific last year seems more concerned with putting out suckers this year so time for a re-think.
As for the sheep, Lola finally lambed on 4th June having twin ewe lambs. This leaves us with 8 lambs this year, 5 ewes and 3 rams. The six adult sheep have now been shorn (by a professional) and apart from the odd foot trimming are doing well.
As for Elsie, she has now woken up with the most beautiful smile ready for another day (and breakfast) . I hope Debbie can read my writings through the porridge splatter - another job for me to master or do I call in the experts. Oh! Now I've got porridge in my shirt pocket as well!!
Glyn

Pickled French Beans

225g Onions
1l white wine vinegar
112g demerara sugar
1 ½ tsp salt
4 cloves of garlic
2 bay leaves
6 black peppercorns
2 tsp dill seed
2lb French Beans

Peel and thinly slice onions and in a medium size stainless steel saucepan, mix with vinegar,sugar, ONE tsp salt, peeled garlic cloves, bay leaves, peppercorns and dill seed.
Heat on the hob and bring liquid to the boil, reduce heat to low,cover and simmer for 30 minutes.
Top and tail beans and half fill another pan with water and bring to the boil - add remaining salt and beans, turn heat down and simmer for 3-5 minutes. Drain beans.
Place beans upright in sterilised jars. Strain liquid mixture and then pour over the beans. Cover and seal.

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:

21 August	13 November
28 September	11 December
16 October	

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 7 August	Blue bin
Tuesday 13 August	Brown Bin
Wednesday 14 August	Black Bin
Wednesday 21 August	Blue Bin
Tuesday 27 August	Brown Bin (maybe a day late Bank Holiday)
Wednesday 28 August	Black Bin (maybe a day late Bank Holiday)

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



Village Hall Whist Drive

WHIST DRIVE

Only ten players came to our July Whist Drive giving us two tables of players and one flirt table where the two people sitting out earned seven points for that round.

The winners last month were:
1st Place: Ian (173)
2nd Place: Jus (170)
3rd Place: Jim and Ian tied (163)
Wooden Spoon: Mike (144)

If you like playing cards please consider coming along. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the half way stage. Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 2nd August 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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BUNTING!

Perhaps you've forgotten or are not even aware that we have miles of colourful bunting made many years ago by all the people in the village. It will brighten any event, birthdays, barbeques, garden parties etc. It can be hired for a £15 donation - all proceeds going to the Church and Village Hall. Also available small, matching tablecloths (card table size). Contact Val Nunn 07483245825.

A tale of two hats (and counting)

Shortly after Peter and I arrived in India in 1957 we were invited to a wedding. No - not an Indian one, we'd already been to several of those, no this was a young expat bachelor who was a young engineer working for Peter. A great many of us, Roger's work colleagues and friends from clubs, tennis partners etc were all invited (mainly to swell the bride groom's side at church). Very few weddings were conducted in either Calcutta Cathedral, Anglican, Scottish Kirk or R.C. Church, as unless the bride was already in residence it was much simpler for the chap to take home leave and get spliced in the UK.But, no, the whole shebang was transported to India.

The reason for this became clear when the bride, one Miss B arrived - she was 'slightly with child'. The evidence of this was admirably disguised under a hideous wedding dress closely resembling a cross between a puffball (mushroom) and a meringue! Don't forget this is the 1950's, and a pregnant bride was just not on. , not in polite society anyway. Nice girls didn't - there was no pill then, and if they 'fell' the usual routine was to quietly rush off to the nearest registry office, disappear only for a lovely 7lb plus perfect baby to appear 8-9 months later - a wee bit premature.But there was one stumbling block to this, in this case - A's mother - she was not going to be cheated out of putting on"Wedding of the Year" as she fondly hoped for her only child - no way, you just transport the whole operation to a country you know nothing about half way round the world - simple (or NOT), so undeterred Mrs B chartered half the P.O. Passenger liner fleet to convey a vast entourage of friends, relatives (only acceptable ones) and vast quantities of luggage, cases, trunks, crates, boxes galore (the customs must have had a field day especially with the crates containing wedding presents). She bought the lot - even the cake came from Fortnum and Masons. I'm sure the shelves of F&M's and Harrods were left bare - she also bought the photographer,florist and hairdresser (there I don't blame her). She took over two entire floors of the biggest hotel - "A large Wagnerian woman with a voice that shattered glass" ("My Fair Lady") was a very good description of her - spliced with a helping of Hyacinth Bucket.

Mr B was a self made man from Birmingham, he made a fortune from armaments during the war - what do you do with all the metal and brass laying around afterwards? Well, you go into sanitary ware accessories of course - brass taps, plugs etc and given loos still flushed from overhead

cisterns - yes he made lavatory chains - good for him! He only had one topic of conversation, brass.

The seemingly very ordinary normal charming young chap, the bridegroom, was quite another story. Roger came from landed gentry, owned a large estate in Wiltshire and whose family tree had roots in Doomsday, the family was literally splattered with titles but nobody minded much.Although he was very quiet and unassuming he wasn't quite on our level - he went to Eton ad called his Ma and Pa Mater and Pater for heaven's sake.I think he may have been an 'Honorable' not sure he ever used it, he was however the heir to a large fortune and chunk of land, highly desirable especially to Mrs B. She wasn't going to let that slip out of her hands!
Her and her company's obvious concept of India was based on Kipling's Kim and Jungle Book etc, very outdated. Based on this she suggested every one was kitted out with *Sola Topees,* well they hadn't been used in India, except for ceremonial occasions, for decades. They all emerged from the hotel the morning after the arrival topped with them - hilarious.
The bridegroom's parents arrived without any fuss - a few close friends, her cousin was wife of the Ambassador so they stayed in the Residency - lovely - beautiful gardens where the reception was held. Luckily you couldn't wreck that.He was a dear old boy who loved his dogs and horses more than family - rode to the hounds at least once a week - shot everything that moved from the 12th August and fished in his river on the estate, he was totally bemused by all the fuss. She was a typical upper class country lady, her order of priorities were dogs, horses, County Show, W.I and Church flower rota and her son - in that order, very sweet bred gentle women.

Anyway, hats, apart from Sola Topees no mention - patience dear reader. When we went to India in '57 we were told to take some 'smart' wear i.e. hats, gloves, nylons, court shoes etc. we spent most of the time in sundresses, shorts and chappels(flip flops). So come the wedding what to wear? I made a lot of my own clothes and had made a very smart outfit for my cousin's wedding in the UK recently - thick silk dress with a 'duster' coat overtop both lined so not exactly cool - apricot-tan but with black motif so black accessories - suede court shoes, long black gloves etc but the hat had been a flat velvet pancake , not really suitable for the tropics so it got left behind. So what to do? Ever resourceful with a bit of inspiration down to the

market I go and buy a straw coolie hat and a pot of shiny black enamel paint - it looked very stylish though I say so myself - problem solved.
The big day dawned blisteringly hot mid to high 30's with very high humidity (you try putting tights on in that). All the invasion had bought or hired (I think Moss Bros must have made a killing) full morning dress including top hats so they arrived looking like overstuffed penguins. Our boys are sensibly in lightweight tropical suits - albeit dark colours and panama or straw boaters. They look the most comfortable. Mrs B, well as she paraded up the aisle "stately as a galleon" come to mind, her hat bedecked with an unimaginable number of feathers some of which could have been attached to the birds, was a thing to behold.
Mr & Mrs H-S however, saw no reason to digress from the norm, she did however, wear a tweed suit changed her felt hat for a rather pretty understated straw hat with a few flowers, court shoes instead of lace up brogues and nylons instead of woollen stockings - she looked very lady like. He was in morning dress that had obviously been in the family since Waterloo or even the Crimea - slightly faded and threadbare with a slightly yellow hue and smelt strongly of moth balls. I'm sure they would have both rather been at home with their dogs and horses.
Anyway all passed without a hitch - more by luck than good management - of course there was the usual hanging round the church door in the blazing sun while numerous photos were taken - destined no doubt for the Tatler or Country Life, no Hello in those days. Thank goodness we eventually got to the reception at the cool grounds of the Residency and everyone could let their hair down, rip off gloves, kick off shoes and even surreptitiously remove stockings and nylons, take off morning coats and undo waistcoats etc and "doff" our hats. Yes, but on "doffing" mine - you've guessed it the paint had melted through the crown onto my hair! So on whipping it off I took half my hair with it - excruciating didn't cover it - agony - not only was half my hair now attached to the discarded hat what was left was sticking up in clumps, I looked like a right scruff - we beat a hasty retreat to the loo's where friends doused me in water from head to toe. I now looked like a drowned rat and had to wear a sun hat the whole time for many months and when it did grow back I had a small white streak, mind you given the shock and trauma it's a wonder I didn't turn white overnight. The hat? Bonfire of the Vanities ……to be continued….hat number two…

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	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	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358