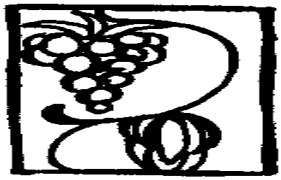
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



July 2024 No:226

Gosh, the sudden heat is a bit overwhelming today as this month's Grapevine is being compiled! Not complaining, it has given us some stunning sunrises and sunsets - but what a difference in a few short days.

The crops are suddenly turning and it won't seem five minutes until the combines are out and being dusted down ready for action. And the countryside cycle goes on. Schools are on the cusp of finishing for the summer and for those who have completed tests and examinations there are a few weeks to recharge their batteries and have a bit of holiday fun.

Rosie and Richards preparations for their walking adventure are progressing - Let's hope that it's not quite so hot for them when they pick up the actual challenge. We look forward to reading more.

We still have a few recipes that were submitted for the book that never was! We include one for apples in this month's edition -this one has been tried and tested - very successfully!

There did it! No mention of the Football or the General Election!!
Happy reading.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader,
July is a month when we begin to wind down for the summer holidays as we move through what is known as 'Ordinary Time' in our church services. I hope that we shall see a bit more sunshine this month, as so far June has been almost a complete washout!

I wrote about Saint Peter in June, an inspiring figure in the life of the Christian Church. This month we will be celebrating another saint who played a prominent part in our gospel, Mary Magdalene. Not a great deal is known of Mary's background, although many have given her a not altogether wholesome profile. But when she met Jesus, who accepted her just as she was, she put her past behind her.

Mary was the first person to see the risen Christ, and she took that message back to the disciples. They did not believe her at first, but eventually Jesus appeared to them all, and promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit, which would sustain them in their task of taking the good news of the gospel to all.

What I like about Mary is her humility. At the time of Mary's life, women played a subservient role in society. Mary's humility though, was not about her status in society, it was about her faith in a God who accepts all who come to him. It doesn't matter who we are, what we do or where we live, God accepts all who come to him. God knows our faults, he created us after all, but time and time again He is prepared to forgive us, and to give us the opportunity to start again. If only there was more of a willingness to forgive in our society – it would make such a difference to so many communities.

I know that to many it seems that God is absent from the many areas of conflict in the world, but I believe that God is there, weeping for those who are being caught up in the conflict. I pray fervently that both sides in all the wars raging across our world will see that peace comes only through talking. May it be so very soon.
Yours in Christ,
Sharon
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - July 2024

Sunday 7 July Trinity 6	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham
Saturday 13 July	3-5pm at venue tbc For all children accompanied by parent(s)/guardian(s) (contact Rev Canon Sharon for more details at revsharon2@gmail.com)
Sunday 14 July Trinity 7	10am Morning Prayer - Cockfield 10.30am Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 18 July	Village Friends 'Fish n Chip' lunch starting at 12.30pm (please note earlier start) - over 65's club at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 21 July Trinity 8	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Patronal Morning Prayer - Lt Whelnetham 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 27 July	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' venue tbc
Sunday 28 July Trinity 9	9.30am Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George
Sunday 4 August Trinity 10	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 with 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.

The plan is to make 'bundles' e.g. bathroom bits, kitchen bits, gardening, Pets, alcohol, chocolate, grocery etc.., OR Vouchers. So we collect things and then make up baskets or gift bags. So all contributions great or small would be gratefully received.

Thank you.

Book early to avoid disappointment!!

Plant and Produce Stall - Linden House

The stall has been generously 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. £100 raised this month. Thank you

Neighbourhood Watch

Andy Tucker is Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association's Network Coordinator. If you would like to be added to Andy's distribution list please email him at andrewtucker7@btinternet.com and he will be happy to include you.

Anyone wishing to obtain a 'No Cold Calling' sticker to display at their property can obtain one by calling Suffolk County Council on 0808 223 1133 (9am to 5pm) or email tradingstandards@suffolk.gov.uk

Also, those already displaying a sticker are encouraged to apply for a new one as the displayed contact number on the sticker for reporting cold callers has changed to 0808 223 1133.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 18 July
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

12.30pm start this month as it's 'Fish 'n' Chip' time!

Please book with either Canon Sharon or Susan Metcalf for Fish 'n' Chips *(please note there will be a small charge for the fish 'n' chips)*

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
st.metcalf@btinternet.com

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

St Clare Luxury "Midsummer Marmalade"

Now available from St Clare Cottage or telephone 01284 386636

Special Price for St Clare residents £3.50 - Usual Price £4.

Hurry, it will sell out quickly - it always does.

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Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

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When: Every Friday

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

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Malvern Pudding

1lb Cooking apples
1oz butter
1oz granulated sugar
Grated rind of one lemon

1 egg
1oz butter
1oz plain flour
¾ pint of milk
1 oz granulated sugar

2oz demerara sugar
½ level teaspoon cinnamon
½ oz butter

Peel, core and slice apples. Cook with butter and sugar til soft and thick. Stir in lemon rind. Spread in a 1 ½ pint ovenproof dish.

Beat egg, melt butter, stir in flour, cook for 2 minutes. Add milk and bring to boil, simmer for two minutes. Remove from heat, stir in sugar and egg - a little at a time. Pour sauce on the apple mixture.

Mix demerara sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle on top of cooled sauce, dot with butter, grill until caramelised . Serve warm.

Ellie

Rosie & Richard's Pembrokeshire coastal hike for Macmillan

We've been busy doing lots of training walks to prepare for our 186 mile sponsored hike for Macmillan in July.

It's been a great excuse to explore the many footpaths around Suffolk and Norfolk. We've enjoyed walking around places like Dunwich, Ickworth, Wells-Next-the-Sea, Rendlesham and Sherringham. We even did a few hikes around Içmeler and Marmaris when we holidayed in Turkey!

Our latest walk was the furthest we've done so far at 19 miles. We started through our local Bradfield woods and smelt the wild garlic as we passed by. Walking through the villages of Felsham, Rattlesden, Buxhall and Onehouse we discovered quaint thatched cottages, ducklings waddling over pond weed before plopping back into the water next to their mother duck, and an unusual church in Onehouse which apparently briefly featured in the early BBC TV series The Survivors. Richard was trying out a new map app that beeped to let us know when we needed to turn left or right. One wrong turn and a short detour later we started trusting it, and it certainly helped keep us on track and allowed us to concentrate on admiring the Suffolk scenery rather than worrying too much about where to go.

After 13 miles we made it into Stowmarket, with only a couple of aches and twinges in our legs. We'd planned on eating here but hadn't thought about the timing - it was only 11am and it proved difficult finding somewhere that was cooking lunches so early! We settled on a tasty panini with tea and cake at the Moments coffee shop (supporting St Nicholas Hospice Care – it's worth a visit if you're in the area).

After our re-fuel we set off again. Just out of Stowmarket we met what was possibly the happiest dog I've ever seen. The fluffy little thing kept running up to us with a big grin on her face, then rolled around on the

grass for belly fuss. The dog and her owner headed off along a different path, and Richard and I carried on our way. Walking the 13 miles to Stowmarket earlier in the day had seemed easy, but after sitting down for an hour our legs had started to seize up a little. We had over half the journey still to go, another 15 miles planned back to Bradfield St Clare, and weren't sure if our legs would make it! We trekked another five miles or so through Combs, Little Finborough and High Street Green. Richard had a pain at the back of his knee and was limping quite badly. We came to a road section and sat down for a quick break. When we struggled to get back up, and after some interrogation on how bad the pain was (Richard's not very good at giving in!) we decided it would be better to call it a day than to end up stuck in the middle of a field. We Googled where we were and discovered it was called World's End Lane, which was an amusing end to the walk. Richard called a taxi and we were surprised to find one that could come out straight away – they were there within 20 minutes and we didn't even have time to drink our tea that had only just boiled!

We got back home safe and sound, if a little disappointed that we hadn't done the full 30 miles we had planned. It was a good lesson learnt – do some stretching before and after each long stop. We're still hoping to do a 30 mile walk before our real hike in July, so watch this space. We've also kept the taxi's card in case they're needed again next time!

We'll be keeping a blog of our training, hike and sponsor updates on https://buckinghamrambles.wordpress.com/

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.

It is hoped that this will be a quarterly event and the Charity Nominated will be announced in next month's Grapevine.

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

"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day."

KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

Our next opening will be: Saturday, 20th July 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.

Last month Andy Tucker came along and chatted informally with everyone about local issues. Those of us using the Nextdoor App will be used to seeing Andy's posts keeping us all updated about road closures, scams to beware of, Trading Standards warnings and Police crime reports. Andy is also the Network Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. Andy commented on how much he enjoyed meeting people and how great it was to see so many residents getting together. Thank you for dropping in Andy. It was lovely to meet you and we hope you will visit the Kit Café again soon!

There is always a brilliant atmosphere at the Kit Café and it is a great way to meet people. So if you haven't been before please come along. You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

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.



Bradfield Weather

May 2020	May 2021	May 2022	May 2023	May 2024
1mm	62.5 mm	32 mm	40mm	94mm
June 2020	**June 2021**	**June 2022**	**June 2023**	
69 mm	46mm	38mm	27mm	

Shortly after submitting last month's report the Heavens opened and we had 47mm of rain in a week! Our 30 year average for May is just under 50mm and we've had almost double that. June started decidedly chilly with the wind in the North causing a bit of chaos to our taller plants which I hadn't got around to staking – will I ever learn that a stake in time saves nine?! However, this past week seems to have heralded summer and with the solstice just past it about time too. I've been planting out annuals this week and I hate to say it but the soil is getting a little dry in places but with a good watering in and soil temperatures sitting nicely in the high teens things are growing very well (especially the weeds).

Amongst my gardening friends there's a general cry of despair over vegetable growing this year so far. The wet spring has been an idyll for the slug population and the cool start to June has meant some veg like sweetcorn has taken on that yellow hue. Apparently, it can't absorb magnesium well if the temperature isn't high enough – if you're in the same boat don't panic; the warmer weather should rectify the issue. The forecast this week is set for some proper warmth, so it's definitely time to settle outside and enjoy the glorious summer evenings. I'm delighted that after 24 years of being here we have swallows nesting in the garage – they are my all time favourite bird.

Alice Ward-Thomas (22/06/24)



News from Bishops Farm

June 2024

The growing season for harvest 2024 so far has been very challenging. Winter drilled crops saw very heavy rain events at the end of October and never quite recovered after continual rain events from then on until well into May.

We recorded 183 mm of rain in October on the farm, 99mm in November, 78mm in December, 57mm in January, 128mm in February, 43mm in March, 62mm in April, 94mm in May and 20mm so far in June. So, the two extreme months of rainfall totalling 311 mm of rain were October and February, which are the main months for autumn drilling and the highest yield potential month for spring drilling. To put this in perspective that total is around 50% of our average total annual rainfall falling in the 8 weeks we would like to be planting!

I've written before about how crucial it is to get seedbeds right in order to maximise crop establishment and yield potential, however the volumes of rain compromised both drilling campaigns this season and inevitably crop potential has suffered this year. With that however we've been able to reduce our spend on chemical and fertiliser inputs this year, as crops are far less likely to fall over, suffer great disease pressure or require as much fertiliser feed.

On the flip side, the cattle have done incredibly well this season. Which just proves the mixed farm system works as we are no longer reliant purely on our income from crop production which in years like this can be so much at the mercy of the weather. The beef price has held well, so our old stock all sold out at over £5/kg and the new stock weight gains over winter were the best we've had yet. On their last weigh before turnout the 31 bullocks averaged 377kg on turnout having gained on average 1.29Kg daily live weight gain since being with us. This is a very healthy weight gain being 30% higher than the industry target/average of 1Kg. Clearly our choice of breed is proving to be well suited to our home-grown forage housed and grazing system.

The serious amount of rain has also provided us with a serious amount of grazing and haylage! The herbal leys on turnout looked amazing with lush clover, plantain, chicory, vetch and grass species all growing well. The quality of first cut haylage this spring was phenomenal despite both fields being disrupted by the pipeline works, and we also managed to snatch 2nd cut haylage from both fields and all our single cut fields between rain events in mid-June. And of course, this fell over a Saturday and Sunday because Mike hadn't worked hard enough already all week!

We start to turn our attention towards harvest now, with the winter barley ears on the turn. Despite the seasonal weather challenges, having now passed through the Summer Solstice our crops will all start to senesce, and harvest will be date wise as similar as any other. Farmers across the nation will be glad to see the back of this cropping year and we all look forward to having another go this next Autumn!

Tom Rouse
Dairy Farm House

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:

24 July	16 October
21 August	13 November
28 September	11 December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 2 July	Brown Bin
Wednesday 3 July	Black Bin
Wednesday 12 June	Blue Bin
Tuesday 16 July	Brown Bin
Wednesday 17 July	Black Bin
Wednesday 24 July	Blue Bin
Tuesday 30 July	Brown Bin
Wednesday 31 July	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



Village Hall Whist Drive

WHIST DRIVE

Fifteen players came to our June Whist Drive making four tables with one 'dummy' hand dealt each round to make a 16th player.

The winners last month were:
1st Place: Jus (169)
2nd Place: Ean (164)
3rd Place: Derek (163)
Wooden Spoon: Sue (143)

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, 5th July 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.

Wanted
New Editor for the Grapevine

This is an advance notice that I would like to hand over the compiling and editing of the Grapevine in the New Year.

I took over from Peter Newlands three and a half years ago and it has been a pleasure to support the Village Magazine. However, although 'retired' I have managed to fill my time so much that I feel I can no longer give the Grapevine the attention it deserves. To that end, I am happy to continue until the new year. If anyone would like to come forward prior to that I am also happy to hand it over. If no one feels that they are able to, then the Grapevine will cease to exist from January 2025.

Really the magazine editing consists of compiling reports sent in by others, checking the bin dates!!, and highlighting village events. Margaret Lovick will still be Editor, as she has been since the Grapevine's inception, so whoever takes over would be supported by her and all her gained knowledge of producing the Grapevine for many years now.

The Village Hall Committee are very supportive of the magazine and Dianne and Gerry Bullard kindly deliver to every household in the village.

If you are interested and would like more detail of what is involved then please do not hesitate to contact me. Contact details are on the front page of the magazine.

Debbie Thomas

Reflection

Gone is the altar of stone and gone are the relics it contained. Gone is the rood loft and the predominating figure of Christ on the cross. The stories in paint have vanished from the walls and plain panes replaced the pictures in the windows. Smashed are the images of Virgin and saints and the tabernacles of alabaster that housed them. No tapers, no gilding, and the angels flown from the chancel roof.

But gone too are the exacting extremes of piety and zeal that first built and then destroyed those things. Inside the church this cessation of strife is made manifest. There is a kind of equilibrium, as if four hundred years on either side of the Reformation have come into balance. There is no feeling of deprivation now, of things untimely uprooted or cruelly wrenched from their sockets. The scars have been plastered over but the wounds have healed. There is an air not so much of compromise as of a modest, humbler-held faith and, above all hope.

Outside, the handsome and strong; serene and lovely within; simple, spacious and light. All are apt enough descriptions of our church today. The aim of the parish must remain what it has always been – to keep this ancient, sacred place a fitting house for the worship of God.

Floreat Eccelesia de Bradfield Sanctae Clarae.

(taken from 'A Guide to Bradfield St Clare Church' written and compiled by Terrance Smith)

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	TBC after July 4th
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