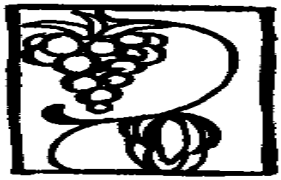
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



July 2026 No:247

Dear Neighbours,

As we head into July, it would be hard not to mention the burst of hot weather at the end of June. Whether you were making the most of it or just trying to keep cool, it certainly made its presence felt!

Looking ahead, there are a few dates to note. Alice Ward-Thomas will be opening her garden on 2nd August as part of the National Garden Scheme, with teas and cakes in aid of St Clare Church. Full details can be found in her weather report, so do take a look and support a lovely local event.

Further ahead, the autumn quiz will be returning on 9th October, so pop that in your diary.

As always, if you have any local news, events, or updates you'd like to share, or if you know of anyone who might like to advertise, please do get in touch. Every contribution helps keep the Grapevine going for everyone to enjoy.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

The end of the school year presents challenges to all ages: exams, school trips, proms and, of course, the long, school holidays.

At the end of each school year I always have that sense of journey – our year 6 class moving on to secondary school and each year group moving on to a new teacher and new challenges. We pray for all the children who are leaving their Primary schools to move on to their next school, wherever that may be. It is a transition in life that can be both exhilarating and slightly scary at the same time, a bit like a roller coaster.

The concept of travelling is very familiar to Christians. We talk of being 'on a journey of faith', and 'travelling the road with Jesus'. Jesus was an itinerant preacher, he moved around the region with his group of followers, preaching to the crowds who gathered to hear him. He may not have known where his next meal was coming from, or where he would lay his head each night.

In our society, which is on the whole very settled, it is difficult to imagine this kind of lifestyle. Yet many are on the move in our world at the moment, searching for a new community where there is the hope of prosperity and most of all, peace.

Peace is something that our Church prays for every day, and not just for the end of war, but for that peace which Jesus said the world cannot give, the peace that comes with faith and the sense of belonging to one another in Him. It is hard to imagine that our world will ever be completely at peace, but it is a hope that I'm sure all of us would like to see fulfilled. Who knows, perhaps our children will grow up to be the peacemakers that finally bring everlasting peace to the planet! Let's pray that they do.

With every blessing,

Sharon

revsharon2@gmail.com,
01284 828599 or 07825 086063
www.cockfieldbenefice.com

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - July 2026

Saturday 4 July	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall, refreshments and a space to craft/knit/crochet/sew. All welcome!
	7 for 7.30pm 'Arcadian Recorder Concert' at Bradfield St George Church, IP30 0DH. £12.50 admission including canapés and a glass of wine/soft drink! Contact 07443626499 or christinestainer57@gmail.com.
Sunday 5 July **Trinity 5**	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 11 July	Messy Church 3-5pm, Venue tbc. For all children accompanied by parents/carers. Crafts - Food - Fun - Story
Sunday 12 July **Trinity 6**	10am Morning Prayer at Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship at Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 14 July	Holy Communion at Felsham Church followed by soup and sandwiches. All welcome!
Thursday 16 July	12.30 - 3pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall, 'Fish'n'Chips' and a film. Booking essential. Contact Canon Sharon for details.
Sunday 19 July **Trinity 7**	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

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

the next meeting will be on
Thursday 16 July
12.30-3pm as this month it's 'Fish'n'chips'
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, 18 July 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. **The June quiz was won by Will who answered all the questions correctly.** There was one other all correct entry but unfortunately there was no name on the sheet.

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

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Village Hall Whist Drive



Our next whist drive will be held on
Friday, 3rd July

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 Ian with a score of 176.

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

May 2022	May 2023	May 2024	May 2025	May 2026
32 mm	40mm	94mm	19mm	8mm
June 2022	**June 2023**	**June 2024**	**June 2025**	**June 2026**
38mm	27mm	20 mm	23mm	35mm to 25th

Here is the weather report. It is extremely hot.

However, by the time this reaches you it looks like it will be about 8 degrees cooler and, if I am to believe my telephone forecast which I faithfully but misguidedly do, we might even get some rain at the start of July. Happy Days!

The rain at the start of the month did wonders – a decent amount spread over a week or so which offered our gardens plants and young trees a lifeline which they accepted gleefully. However, Christian and I still spent the weekend just past watering and mulching the youngsters in the park here, knowing that this heat was on its way. They seem grateful for it.

When you open your garden for the National Garden Scheme, you have to commit to a date in early September the previous year. It's almost impossible to predict what the season will be like! For various reasons, we plumped for Sunday 2nd August as that should be a great time for the big perennial garden which featured on Gardeners' World. If we keep getting bits of rain it will be looking good. Everything is shorter than in its first two years of life when there was plenty of summer rain but that has advantages too as there's less staking required.

Lorraine and her team have very kindly offered to do teas and cakes which will be in aid of St Clare church so do come along if you are able to. We're open from 12-5pm. Tickets are on the gate but it would be hugely helpful to know roughly how many are coming, so feel free to let me know 07768347595.

We're so lucky to have Bradfield Woods on our doorstep. I took an aged aunt for a walk there yesterday and it was full of butterflies – we were treated to Silver Wash Fritillaries, Ringlets and a White Admiral. And it was cooooooool.

Alice Ward-Thomas (25/06/2026)

A date for your diary

We are having to replace the fire door in the Village Hall and need to raise funds for it. Therefore we are planning to hold an

Autumn Village Quiz

On

October 9th at 7pm, Village Hall

There is no fixed charge for entry, just donations please

Tables of four, though we can always accommodate strays!

Please indicate your intention to attend by calling or texting Isobel Payne on 07888 649809

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

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

BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 3rd July	Grey with green lid (and food waste)
Friday 10th July	Black Bin (and food waste)
Friday 17th July	Blue Bin (and food waste)
Friday 24th July	Black Bin (and food waste)
Friday 31st July	Grey with green lid (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

Our church remains open as usual - if you need time to sit and take a breath, you are most welcome.

On the 2nd August the church are doing the refreshments at The Lodge, the home of the Ward-Thomas family. Cash or card can be taken. If there is anyone who hasn't been approached, and would like to bake or help on the day, please let me know. My number is on the front of this issue.

The communion service for the 2nd August will be at 10 o'clock to leave time for the above.

Best Wishes from your church

Margaret



Lee Jardine
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'Haribo' style sweet recipe - no sugar

Ingredients
2 sachets of sugar free jelly (raspberry works well)
1 sachet of gelatine or vegetarian alternative
1 pot of Mullet light fruit yoghurt (again I use raspberry)

Mix sugar free jelly and gelatin into ½ pint of boiling water…..stir until completely dissolved.

Pour ⅔ of the mixture into a shallow dish ..or jelly/ice cube moulds, pop into the fridge to set…if you are using moulds only fill ½ to ⅔ full so you have room for the next layer.

Mix the remaining mixture into the pot of yoghurt…stirring until smooth.

Once the jelly mixture in the fridge is set, pour the yoghurt mixture on top and return to the fridge.

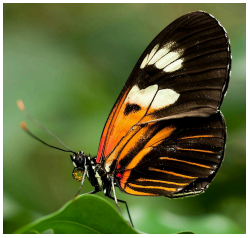
Again,when it is set remove from fridge and cut into cubes or pop out of moulds.

Eat and enjoy - guilt free….they will keep for a few days in an air tight container in the fridge.

Try it with the children or grandchildren in the holidays 😀

Debbie Thomas.

Join the Big Butterfly Count



This summer, why not take part in the Big Butterfly Count? It's a simple way to enjoy nature and help conservation efforts at the same time.

From 17 July to 9 August, people across the UK will spend 15 minutes counting butterflies and day-flying moths in gardens, parks and green spaces. You don't need to be an expert - just spot, count and send in your results.

The information collected helps scientists understand how different species are doing and how they're affected by changes in climate and habitat.

It's a great excuse to pause, enjoy some fresh air and look more closely at what's fluttering around.

To take part or download an ID guide, visit:

👉 **www.bigbutterflycount.org**

Now playing…

Def Leppard



This month's "Now Listening" turns to rock favourites Def Leppard, who are touring this summer alongside Extreme. Formed in Sheffield in the late 1970s, Def Leppard became one of the UK's most successful rock bands, with well-known hits including *Animal* and *Love Bites*. Their big, polished sound helped define the stadium rock era.

Extreme add something a little different to the line-up, mixing hard rock with funk influences, and are perhaps best known for the acoustic song *More Than Words*.

Whether it's a chance to dig out an old album or discover something new, there's plenty here to enjoy. If you're looking for a place to start, their 1987 album *Hysteria* is a great introduction.

Summer Sun
by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven with repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic, spider-clad,
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

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)