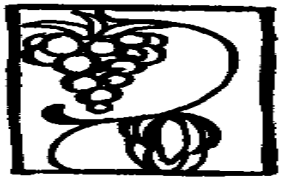
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



June 2025 No:236

Dear Neighbours,

June is here, and with it comes a busy schedule of events to enjoy over the summer months. In this edition, we have updates on regular local gatherings like KIT Café (Sat 21st June), plus plenty to look forward to, including the Jazz Afternoon and Open Garden this month. Looking ahead to July, there's an evening with Charles Garland, which promises to be an insightful event, given his diverse career across television, writing and more.

We also feature an interesting article on encouraging young children into agriculture, exploring ways to spark their interest in farming. And after weeks of dry weather, a little rain has finally arrived - a welcome relief for gardens, fields, and farmers alike.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends

We are nearly at Midsummer which this year falls on 24 June. Midsummer started as a pagan ritual for fertility and a successful harvest during the Stone Age. The pagans believed that plants had healing properties during the summer solstice and they honoured the day by showing reverence to nature with rituals. They danced around maypoles, herbs were picked on Midsummer's Eve and bonfires were lit to keep away any evil spirits. It was said that spirits were free to roam the earth when the sun was turning towards the Southern hemisphere.

In the fourth century, the holiday was changed to fit into Christian beliefs that honoured St John the Baptist, called St John's Day. In the Gospel of Luke, St John's birthday is said to be six months before the birth of Jesus, which would put his birthday in June. It was celebrated by bathing in water the night before the holiday, but despite the name change, some of the customs from Midsummer remained.

Many of the original Midsummer traditions no longer exist, but in some areas of the country such as Cornwall, a few of the traditional midsummer rituals have been revived. And of course, many people travel to Stonehenge in Wiltshire to celebrate the summer solstice sunrise.

In the benefice we will be celebrating another saint - Saint Peter. There will be a Patronal Festival service at St Peter's Church, Cockfield at 10.30am on Sunday 29 June - where we will remember Peter and his life as a disciple of Jesus. And we will have a new member of our Church coming to meet us, our new Assistant Curate Fiona Malby and her family will be attending her first service in the benefice. Fiona will be ordained deacon the day before at St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 11am, and we are really looking forward to her joining the Ministry Team here in the benefice. Everyone is invited to join us at that service, to meet Fiona and to share in the celebration of St Peter!

With every blessing,
Sharon
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284-828599, 07825 086063
Cockfield website: www.cockfieldbenefice.com

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - June 2025

Sunday 1 June Easter 7	9.30am Holy Communion at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion at St Peter, Felsham
Sunday 8 June Pentecost Sunday	10am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 4pm Confirmation service with Bishop Tim at St Peter, Felsham
Tuesday 10 June	11am Holy Communion followed by soup and sandwiches at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 15 June Trinity Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at St Peter, Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion at St Peter, Cockfield
Sunday 15 June	2-5pm Open Garden & Jazz Afternoon at The Lodge, BuryRoad, Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 19 June	2-4pm Village Friends, over 65's group at Felsham Village Hall - Bring'n'buy in aid of local charity
Sunday 22 June Trinity 1	9.30am Holy Communion at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George 10am Communion followed by BYO picnic in the Churchyard at Gedding St Mary to give thanks for the life of the Church
Saturday 28 June	7 for 7.30pm Music on a Summer Evening. 'Angels Delight' a flute and harp duo at Bradfield St George Church.
Sunday 29 June St Peter's Day	10.30am Benefice Communion at St Peter, Cockfield

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. For any other matter contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, tel: 01284 828599 or 07825 086063.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

An over 65's friendship group

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 19 June
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall
this month is 'Bring'n'Buy' in aid of a local charity

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

Bradfield St Clare Parochial Church Council is looking for a new Treasurer.

Do you have some time to spare and have a head for figures (and computers!)?

You do not need to be a member of the worshipping community as you can be co-opted onto the PCC. The PCC meets 4/5 times a year. For an informal chat if you are interested please contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or 07825086063.

KIT CAFE

keep in touch.

Our next opening will be: Saturday, 21st June from 11am – 1pm

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

Please join us 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 and plenty of lively chat.

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!

Summer begins today too so please come along and let's celebrate the Summer Solstice with friends and neighbours!

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

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Contact Ben on 07899 299699 or email ben.jenko14@gmail.com

Village Hall Whist Drive



Fourteen players attended our May whist drive. This gave us three playing tables and one 'flirt' table.

The winning ladies were:
1st Place: Bella (170)
2nd Place: Sylvia (167)
3rd Place: Shirley and Val (164 each)
Wooden Spoon: Sharon (142)

The winning gentlemen were:
1st Place: Jim (173)
2nd Place: Ian (169)
3rd Place: Ean (162)
Wooden Spoon: Gerry (145)

Our next whist drive will be held on **Friday, 6th June** Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the halfway 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.**

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.

Open Garden & Jazz Afternoon

SUNDAY 15 JUNE

£10 entry

includes Strawberries & Cream with tea / coffee

2-5pm
The Lodge
Bury Road Bradfield
St Clare
IP30 0ED

The Jazz Breakers

Cake Stall, Plant Stall, Games & Tombola.
Don't forget to bring plenty of cash.

Enjoy **Circle Dancing** or even join in!

Tickets to be purchased in advance.
Call Lorraine Morley
07742151667

Under 16's - Free
(purchase refreshments)



Fundraising for Bradfield St.Clare Church

Open Garden & Jazz Afternoon - 15 June
Helpers and donations

Lorraine would welcome any donations for the plant stall, cake stall, tombola and of course practical help on the day with 'stall holding', refreshment serving etc. **The more helpers the better on the day.**

Also looking for help to erect the gazebos at The Lodge on Friday 13th at 2pm (Weather Permitting).

If you are able to help or have donations, **please contact Lorraine** and let her know in advance - 07742151667

Thank you

Tickets cost £10 each with strawberries and cream, tea/coffee (under 16's go free - purchase refreshments). Tickets will also be available on the day, but best to purchase in advance - this greatly helps with catering. Join us in this beautiful garden for a fun afternoon!



The Importance of Encouraging Young Children into Agriculture

As Tom's wife and a teacher, I have been watching Tom over the last few weeks volunteering his time at the School Farm Fair, showing a young trainee around the farm and preparing to give talks to the public as the upcoming Suffolk Show about potato harvesting and it got me thinking about how important it is to engage young children in agriculture and how vital this is to fostering a connection to the land, promoting sustainable practices and ensuring the future of the agriculture sector and farms such as Bishops Farm.

Initiatives across Suffolk are introducing children to farming through hands-on experiences, educational programmes and community involvement. The Suffolk Agricultural Association holds a competition each year at the Suffolk Show aimed at getting children involved in growing. Launched in 2015, the Schools Show Garden Competition gives schools the opportunity to design and build a 1.5m x 1m show garden to reflect the theme which is different every year. The theme this year is 'A Garden Showcasing our favourite Book.' A wooden box (including lining and compost) is delivered to the school and then design work planning and creation takes place in the school. The gardens are then collected by the Suffolk Show team and taken to Trinity Park for the two-day event in May half-term. The gardens are judged on the first day of the Show and the winner of the competition is crowned.

The SAA also have a 'Tractors in Schools' project where schools are teamed up with a local farmer who will bring a tractor into the school for the children to see up close. Tom has driven many a large tractor through the narrow streets of Bury St Edmunds to support this initiative!

A firm favourite with Suffolk schools however is the annual School Farm Fair. The School Farm and Country Fair is a day full of interactive activities designed to educate children on the importance of agriculture to Suffolk, the role of farming in delivering food to our tables and the role wildlife and conservation play in building thriving countryside. All activities are linked to the National Curriculum and core subjects, such as maths, science, English, history, geography, art & design etc. School groups go through a variety of interactive zones where pupils are able to participate in a wide variety of hands-on learning activities.

Introducing children to agriculture offers numerous benefits. It allows them to develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment, learning the importance of sustainable practices and biodiversity. Engaging children in agricultural activities enhances practical skills such as problem solving, responsibility and teamwork. Early exposure to agriculture also opens pathways to various careers in farming, agri-business and environmental sciences.

By integrating agriculture into children's education and community activities, we can cultivate a generation that values the land, understands sustainability and is prepared to contribute to the future of agriculture. The sort of initiatives offered by the SAA not only benefit the children involved but also strengthen communities and promote environmental stewardship.

Let's not forget: No farmers. No food.

Ali Rouse
Dairy Farm House

City & Guilds

Lee Jardine
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Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

Bradfield Weather

April 2021	April 2022	April 2023	April 2024	April 2025
3 mm	10 mm	48 mm	62 mm	17 mm
May 2021	**May 2022**	**May 2023**	**May 2024**	**May to 23rd**
62.5 mm	32 mm	40 mm	94 mm	[1 mm]

This report is in danger of sounding properly panicked. If one more person says to me "Hasn't' the weather been wonderful?" I may resort to a mild outburst of swearing. This weather is bad! Since the beginning of March we have had 19 mm of rain. Since the start of the year we have had 105mm – by this time last year we had had 290mm (a wet spring), in 2023 it was 2018 mm. According to Tom's data charts, water content within the soil is down to 14%, last year it was around 38%. Lawns are browning (actually I'm amazed at how green they still are), grass in the parkland here is short (and not just because our horse is extremely fat!) and garden plants are looking thirsty.

With climate change, the struggle we face as gardeners and growers is the inconsistency. Last winter 23/24 was incredibly wet, followed by a summer of pretty good intermittent rain. Young trees and plants all grew extremely well, the moisture loving plants in the garden here did very well the deep rooted drought lovers put up with it but didn't thrive. This year, it is the reverse. Apart from the veg garden, we don't generally water here, the garden is too large, water is precious. I tend to target anything newly planted and those looking unhappy with a watering can.

But let me finish on a positive note! The flowering this spring has been phenomenal. The need for staking is reduced as growth is less lush. Fruit has set well – we have peaches where last year there were none. There seem to be a lot of insects – our car windscreen is well splattered! The mower is less exhausted which is good for carbon emissions and pollinators as the daisies, buttercups and clover are all able to flower in lawns. And there has been minimal slug damage!

Do please come to our Open Garden in aid of our Church on Sunday 15th June 2-5pm. Strawberries and cream, jazz and a few stalls. Tickets from Lorraine 07742 151667.

Alice Ward-Thomas (23/5/25)

The Library Van Dates 2025

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:

Wednesday 25 June	Wednesday 15 October
Wednesday 23 July	Wednesday 12 November
Wednesday 20 August	Wednesday 10 December
Wednesday 17 September	

BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 3 June	Brown Bin
Wednesday 4 June	Black Bin
Wednesday 11 June	Blue Bin
Tuesday 17 June	Brown Bin
Wednesday 18 June	Black Bin
Wednesday 25 June	Blue Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Parish Council Meetings

- **12th August 2025**
- **11th November 2025**

St.Clare Church

After a quiet period over Easter a wonderful Rogation Service was hosted at Bishops Farm on Sunday 18th May. Thirty two people gathered for this crop blessing service led by Rev Sharon. After a hymn and introduction we boarded two trailers seated on hay bales for a trip through the farm blessing the cows (now out in the meadows), and crops of beans, wheat and barley. Having returned to the farm the service was concluded with a further hymn and prayers.

Refreshments were served and several people enjoyed their picnics in the garden. The weather played a part but yes please we'd now like some rain.

At the APCN two new Church Wardens were elected, namely Margaret Lovick and Lorraine Morley. The latter will rely heavily on the knowledge and experience of Margaret. Basically we'll work as a team with support from the wider Benefice. Please feel free to join our services, generally 2nd Sunday of the month for Communion at 11.00am and Evening Service 6pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please note there will not be an evening service in June BUT please join us at our fundraiser that day 15th June advertised elsewhere in the Grapevine. Wishing you all a happy summer.





Bradfield St. Clare Village Hall Refurbishment Fund Raising Event:

An Evening With Charles Garland. Friday 25th July 2025 in BRADFIELD ST. GEORGE VILLAGE HALL

People who have visited our Village Hall recently will know that the refurbishment is nearly complete, but we urgently need funds to complete the project with equipment needed for the kitchen area. We have generously been given some kitchen furniture from a parishioner, but we still need funds to complete the installation and other items.

The evening with Charles Garland will take place in Bradfield St George Village Hall as it has greater capacity and has a bar that will be open from 7pm. The evening will comprise Charles telling us of his upbringing as a vicars son and his diverse career as a dancer, restaurateur in London's Belgravia before joining the BBC from making tea on Hi-De-Hi to becoming producer of David Crofts last TV comedy series 'Oh Doctor Beeching'. He was series editor of Dads Army and has several anecdotes he could reveal. As an author he has had books published including 'Painted Angel' and a hilarious collection of whimsical verses titled 'My Labrador Eats Poo'.

Charles will begin his presentation at 7.30 with a break for light refreshments and top up from the bar and then provide further examples of his work with some visual and sound clips and he will answer questions if time allows. The evening will also include a raffle.

Venue: **Friday 25th July 2025 Bradfield St George Village Hall**

Time: **7.00pm for 7.30pm**

Tickets: **£10 each** inc. light refreshments, obtainable from Gerry Bullard 07710293669 by call or SMS or by email gerry@ghbullard.co.uk.

Payment can be made if it is easier by Bacs transfer to BSC Village Hall A/c, Sort Code 08-92-99, A/c No. 67238899

For any queries or further information give me a call on 07710293669.

Gerry Bullard

FUNDRAISING
FOR ST GEORGE CHURCH,
BRADFIELD ST GEORGE,
IP30 0DH

Music For A Summer Evening

featuring

Angels Delight
flute & harp duo

Sat June 28
7 for 7.30pm
in the church

bring your own cushion!

tickets £15
to include wine/soft drink & canapes

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We won the quiz…

Despite being adamant earlier in the day at KIT Café, we (Sarah and Adam, with the help of Simon from Bury St Edmunds) won the Bradfield St George quiz in May, meaning we will now be hosting the July Quiz!

So this is a little request to all our neighbours to come along to the quiz and represent Bradfield St Clare! We've hosted once before and it was good fun and we hope to put on a great evening for all.

July 19th / 7pm - 7:30pm Start / Bar / (usually) a Pizza van / Teams of 4 / £2 per person / BSG Village Hall

Hope to see you there

Sarah & Adam

Events Coming Up

SUNDAY JUNE 15 - Open Garden / Jazz Afternoon - The Lodge - Tickets £10 from Lorraine Morley - 07742151667

SATURDAY JUNE 28 - Music for a Summer Evening - Bradfield St George Church - Tickets £15 - 07443626499 / 01284 388175 / 01284 386327

SATURDAY 19 JULY - Bradfield St George Quiz Night - Bradfield St George Village Hall - £2 per person (Teams of 4)

FRIDAY 25 JULY - An evening with Charles Garland - Bradfield St George Village Hall - Tickets £10 from Gerry Bullard - 07710293669

Raising funds for Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

'Allo! 'Allo!

Dad's Army

Oh Doctor Beeching

An Evening with Charles Garland

Writer, composer, television producer and director

Tickets £10

Inc. light refreshments

Friday, 25 July 2025

Bradfield St George Village Hall

7pm for 7:30 start

Bar & Raffle

Purchase tickets from Gerry Bullard

07710293669

gerry@ghbullard.co.uk

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	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	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