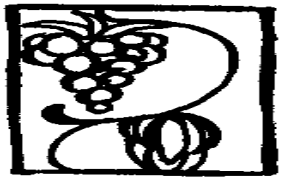
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



June 2026 No:247

Dear Neighbours,

Welcome to the June edition of the newsletter.

It's been an unusually warm May, so it will be interesting to see what June has in store for us. Whether it continues or not, there is plenty coming up over the next few weeks.

A quick note on the changes to bin collections, as this affects everyone. Hopefully the official leaflets have made their way through your door, but if not, or if you just want a quick reminder, you'll find a simple summary along with the June collection dates inside. Apologies if you now have more information about bins than you ever thought you needed!

If you have something you'd like included in a future edition, or know of anyone who may be interested in advertising, please do get in touch.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

June is my favourite month of the year, as it is normally the time when the roses are in bloom. I love my roses, and have planted a few in my time here as Rector. I know that many of you who are reading this are keen gardeners and are always ready to help others out with handy tips on looking after plants.

So growing things is a bit of a theme for me at the moment. I grow roses, but my main task as Rector here is to grow Christians - and to encourage others to grow Christians too. But what does that really mean?

It means learning more about the one who created us, about God the Father, about his Son Jesus, and about the Holy Spirit. As we learn more about these three that make up the Holy Trinity, so we learn more about ourselves, and about the world around us. We find ourselves on a journey through life, and we come to know that God is with us on that journey.

But the great thing about being a member of the Church is that we can grow together. Being in community with each other is what helps us through the times when we are not so sure about our faith, when doubt and troubles plague us. Sharing things with others can reduce the anxiety that we may have been feeling. It can also bring about healing. It is also fun!

In this turbulent world we all need something outside ourselves which stops us from becoming too self-obsessed and materialistic. It is good to hear this week that numbers of church goers in the Anglican church have once again risen, so I'm hopeful that we will continue to be a presence in communities across the UK, bringing hope and fellowship to many.

If you'd like to know more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, why not think about coming to our 'Start' course this October, for more details just drop me a line.

Yours in Christ
Canon Sharon

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

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - June 2026

Saturday 6 June	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall, refreshments and a space to craft/knit/crochet/sew. All welcome!
Sunday 7 June Trinity 1	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion at Felsham
Tuesday 9 June	Holy Communion at Felsham Church followed by soup and sandwiches. All welcome!
Sunday 14 June Trinity 2	10am Morning Prayer at Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship at Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 18 June	2-4pm Village Friends *(over 65's friendship group)* at Felsham Village Hall. This month is 'Bring'n'Buy.
Sunday 21 June Trinity 3	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 10am Café Church at Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion at Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 27 June	2.30pm Ordination of Priests at St Edmundsbury Cathedral - Revd Fiona Malby, our assistant curate, will be ordained priest
Sunday 28 June St Peter & Paul	10.30am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George 6pm Holy Communion at Cockfield - Rev Fiona Malby will be presiding at her first communion as Priest.

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

This month's meeting will be on

Thursday 18 June

2-4pm

at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

this month we will be having a 'Bring'n'Buy' sale to support a local charity.

Tea/coffee & other refreshments will be served.

All welcome!

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, 20th June 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 May quiz was won by "Emily's Entourage"

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, 5th June

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 Anne with a score of 170.

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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News from Home field



Starting this month with a lambing report of my flock sounds rather grand, but I'm not sure what numbers constitute a flock! Firstly, Egg lambed with two ram lambs (one black and one white) on 5th April, about a week earlier than expected. Thankfully I'd brought the flock home two weeks earlier, smug or what. As it was, none of the ewes needed any help, but I like to have them close to home just in case. On the 11th April, Seven lambed with another set of ram lamb twins, and finally Lola lambed on 22nd April with a single ewe lamb. She was a big lamb, but born normally, with no help. Last year Lola had triplets (but lost one) which I think left her with a loss in her condition. I like to think this is Mother Nature's way of saying this year we will take it a bit easier. Lola probably doesn't agree about it being easier when you see her lambs nearly lift her off the ground to get a drop of milk. So, that was the end of lambing for this year, with no problems. With all the dry warm weather I have treated all the flock with a fly repellent. Rather than dipping sheep, one spot of this insecticide keeps the flies away for up to eight weeks. I used to use the same product on the cows years ago to repel the flies. For the sheep it hopefully stops fly strike, where the fly lays its eggs in a wet mucky patch in the wool and, when the eggs hatch the maggots burrow into the sheep's flesh. Hopefully this is not being read at meal times. For the cows, it was more for a calming effect,stopping them from kicking out or tail swishing at milking time when the flies were biting. It really did a good job in the summer months, reducing the number of times you had to put the clusters back on after that irritating fly had bitten them and they reacted in the only way

they knew (sorry reminiscing again). Nowadays a robot puts the machines back on again with no fuss,

In the poly tunnel we have one cabbage left (not for long!) which knocks my April writings on the head. The cauliflowers all went to seed, but the cabbage started then stopped and then filled out. They had tall very thick stems but a big firm heart on top. The lettuce plants went outside and are now perfect for picking. Broad beans have been planted out and have grown to about a foot high, that's all, however they are plastered in flowers. The potatoes and dwarf beans all got burnt in the sharp frost about a week ago, it actually finished the sweet peas, yet the garden peas didn't feel any effect. All the new seeds could do with a good rain but it always seems to miss our region.

Now there's talk of a heatwave at the end of the week. It will soon be time to have the sheep shorn, which they don't always enjoy, until the wool is actually off. However, at the moment they are more interested in detective books after a film they watched the other evening, just hope they don't change the script.

Glyn

Late postscript….on the recommendation of our eldest grandaughter, we went to the cinema (on a Tuesday lunchtime!!) to see the Sheep Detectives…..a very enjoyable afternoon into town, however, we find ourselves looking at the sheep in a VERY different light…who knew what they were thinking and capable of 😊.



Bradfield Weather

April 2022	April 2023	April 2024	April 2025	April 2026
10mm	48mm	62mm	17 mm	2 mm
May 2022	**May 2023**	**May 2024**	**May 2025**	
32 mm	40mm	94mm	19mm	8mm

This weekend I went to Tom Hoblyn's beautiful garden in Bardwell which was open for the NGS (our garden is open on Sunday 2nd August – please come!). Tom is a Chelsea Gold Medallist garden designer and repeated the prediction I've heard elsewhere that by 2080 we are expected to have the same climate as Barcelona. Suffolk is already the driest county in the country – last year we had 505mm of rain and this week has seen record breaking temperatures for May. Tom's weather station is still broken on the rain measuring front but the soil moisture content is down to 0.06 – it should be around 0.25.

On the other hand, only two weeks ago we had frost! Not enough to cause serious damage. For once, I'd held back on planting out my sweetcorn and the potatoes were nipped but have grown through it well. Out in the garden, though, some perennials have had their young growth frosted three times this spring – Macleaya, Eupatorium and Persicaria have all been caught. I'm grateful for them putting in a fourth attempt but there's a serious lack of water for them now. I try very hard not to get the hosepipe out but up in 'Roger's Garden' I've had to do some drenching of individual plants (more effective then a sprinkler – please don't waste water using those!).

It's been a wonderful year for irises, now just starting to go over, but the flowering has been incredible, if brief. The gravel garden here is looking fantastic (if you ignore the weeds which are prolific). This area broadly covers the ground where there used to be farm buildings (gone before we got here) and the mediterranean style plants cope well with the climate. There's increasing research/trend in planting into sand which is good for keeping roots cool and damp in dry periods while providing excellent

drainage for winter deluges. I'm not sure how I feel about this with regards to sustainability– will sand become the new peat? However, crushed concrete can also be used and the recycling of building materials has to be a good thing.

Perhaps we all need to rethink our gardening. In the meantime, put on the sunscreen and enjoy the sunshine!

Alice Ward-Thomas (28/5/26)



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

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

BIN COLLECTIONS

From June households will have:

- **food waste** collected weekly
- **paper and card (grey recycling bin with green lid)** collected once every four weeks
- **mixed recycling (blue bin)** collected once every four weeks
- **non-recyclable (black bin) waste** collected once every two weeks
- **garden waste (paid for service)** collected once every two weeks

Your garden waste collection day will not change.

Friday 5th June	Grey with green lid (and food waste)
Friday 12th June	Black Bin (and food waste)
Friday 19th June	Blue Bin (and food waste)
Friday 26th June	Black Bin (and food waste)

For more information, including links to download all leaflets (in case you recycled some by mistake!) can be found here:

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

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Church Wardens Report

I have very little to tell you this month, we are currently enjoying a good number of people at our 11 o'clock service, mostly from the surrounding villages.

Adrian Kietley-Webb is very readily undertaking the training to become church warden, which is a marvellous help, as it is difficult being the only Church Warden.

Our P.C.C is very small now and with the departure of Mike Morley, the hole he will leave in this village and church will be tremendous.

If anyone amongst you would like to help, you will be welcomed with open arms.

Chris has cut the grass and the churchyard looks tidy.

M.L

Thank you

All the gardeners in the village who have taken advantage of the generous supply of compost and leaf mould, in the village hall car park owe a very grateful thank you to Mr Marcus Craige. A very Kind thing to do.

The Stall

The stall at my house has closed for now, bring anything saleable to me and I will start again later in the year.

This effort has made £155 for church funds, thank you all.

M.L

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Now playing…

Musica Medievalis



Something a little different for us this month! In May we attended a fascinating Musica Medievalis concert at St Michael's Church, Framlingham, with Marco Cannavo and Steve Tyler. Using an incredible collection of medieval instruments, including several types of hurdy-gurdy, they took the audience on a musical journey through Italy, France, Spain and England. We picked up their album *Vexilla Regis* afterwards and would highly recommend checking them out on YouTube to see the instruments in action. A really enjoyable and surprisingly absorbing afternoon.

We would love to hear your recommendations too, from any genre, so do drop us a message at the Grapevine email address.

Sarah & Adam

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 bobb.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)