THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



March 2025 No:233

Dear Neighbours,

This month's newsletter is packed with exciting updates and events to keep you engaged and informed. Join us as the **village hall quiz** returns, promising an evening of fun and friendly competition. Stay updated with the latest news from the Parish Council and delve into a fascinating article on the **history of our village hall**.

Don't miss the latest developments at St. Clare Church and the first update of the year from Homefield. Plus, a friendly reminder, don't forget to **set your clocks forward** by one hour on March 30th for the start of British Summer Time.

We hope you enjoy this edition!

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,
As I write this article the sun is streaming through the window, but it is very cold outside. I've been listening to the radio and hearing about how the world's sea-ice has fallen to a record low. The decline of Arctic sea-ice in response to global warming is well established, but it has speeded up in recent years and is a worrying trend for parts of the world whose homes may be flooded more frequently, or even worse, may disappear altogether such as the island of Gardi Sugdubi off Panama's northern coast.

Climate justice is causing anger for many - and should be a source of concern for all. We need to find solutions to prevent the earth from continuing on this trajectory of warming. It angers me too, and I find as I grow older I become more angry, not less, at the injustices and unfairness that I see in this world (I am in danger of becoming a grumpy old woman).

And Jesus was known to become angry. He became very upset when he found the temple at Jerusalem being used as a marketplace, and his angry words boiled over into action as he drove the market sellers out. Without anger change and reform would not happen. Children might well still be working as chimney sweeps, and slavery would still be acceptable in this country if reformers hadn't been upset at the way in which fellow human beings were being treated.

Christians often feel guilty at the powerful emotions they can have, and find it hard to reconcile their feelings with the Christian gospel. But reconciliation is at the heart of the gospel, and Jesus teaches us that we have to look into our hearts and be honest about how we control our emotions. He is not saying that we should pretend not to be angry, but that we should deal with the emotion, before someone gets hurt.

As we move towards Lent, that season in the Church's year where we spend time reflecting on those parts of ourselves that we would rather not show to the world, I pray that we can let go of some of the anger that we feel in our hearts – and make forgiveness our priority. As I heard someone say once, 'a little bit of forgiveness goes an awfully long way.'

Yours in Christ,
Sharon
Rector, Cockfield Benefice
revsharon2@gmail.com / 01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - March 2025

Sunday 2 March Next before Lent	9.30am Holy Communion - Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Six2Seven - Felsham Village Hall
Wednesday 5 March Ash Wednesday	This year we will be gathering as a Deanery: 10am Communion and Ashing at Lavenham or 5pm Communion and Ashing at Elmswell
Saturday 8 March	7 for 7.30pm - 'Healing the hands of Malawi' talk at Bradfield St George Village Hall
Sunday 9 March Lent 1	10am Morning Prayer - Cockfield 11am Holy Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 11 March	11am Holy Communion - Felsham
Sunday 16 March Lent 2	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion - Cockfield 4pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 20 March	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall
Saturday 22 March	2-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
Sunday 23 March Lent 3	9.30am Holy Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George 10am Communion - Gedding
Saturday 29 March	10am-12.30pm Plant and Tool Sale at Gt Whelnetham Church.
Saturday 29 March	 All children welcome accompanied by parent/carer(s), 3-5pm, Venue tbc
Sunday 30 March Mothering Sunday	10.30am Mothering Sunday Service - 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***

VILLAGE FRIENDS

An over 65's friendship group

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 20 March
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

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

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

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

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.

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

(THE RETURN OF!)

21 ST MARCH AT 7.30PM

JOINTLY PRESENTED BY CLIVE LEAL AND ISOBEL PAYNE

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER QUIZ WITH PROCEEDS SPLIT 50/50 BETWEEN THE VILLAGE HALL ALTERATIONS FUND AND PROSTATE CANCER UK.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES.

THERE IS ALSO TO BE A RAFFLE
(DONATIONS WELCOME)

TEAMS OF FOUR

PLEASE BOOK YOUR TABLE IN ADVANCE WITH
CLIVE 07717823525 OR ISOBEL 01284 386169



Our next opening will be: Saturday, 15 th March from 11 am – 1 pm

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

Our first opening since phase 1 of our village hall improvements was a great success. Everyone was impressed with the work so far and it was wonderful to have the extra space in the kitchen. It was especially heartening to see so many people meeting up again after what seemed like a long time.

Special thanks to everyone who provided something for the table. There were some delicious cakes and savouries! We now have a list of people who are happy to bake occasionally but if you haven't put your name down and are willing to be included please let us know.

Please come and join us for our next opening on **Saturday, 15 th March any time between 11 am and 1 pm 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.

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

Update from Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

Bridge Repair

The Parish Council has noted that some works have been going on at the bridge in Bradfield St Clare. In order to keep up to date as to what is happening with the bridge, we contacted Historic England who monitor and manage the bridge. They responded immediately giving the following update which we feel villagers will find useful:

"We can confirm that AMCO Giffen are carrying out a brickwork repair scheme here.....works will deal with the long-standing damage to the parapets and then repairs and pointing to the rest of the structure where necessary. The contractor will also install some tabs which will give Historic England a better idea as to whether there is a continued movement at this bridge. There are some historical fractures here which Historic England want to keep a close eye on."

Neighbourhood Watch

We have a really good Neighbourhood Watch Team in this area, and one of the services they provide is regular email updates about local crime, local roadworks and anything they think will be of particular interest to local people, particularly if it is something that will impact on daily lives/routines.

The emails are sent out 'blind' (Bcc) so nobody else will see your email address.

If you want to receive these email updates then please contact andrewtucker7@btinternet.com and ask to be added to the email list. You can be removed from the list at any time, simply by asking him to remove you from the list.

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

Village Hall Whist Drive



Several of our usual players were away for our first whist drive since reopening. There were nine players which meant we had two tables and a 'flirt' table meaning the player who landed there was awarded seven points for that round before moving on. It was great to see Margaret back again and many thanks to her and Jus for providing the refreshments!

The winners were:
1st Place: Jackie (167)
2nd Place: Shirley and Val (152) sharing proceeds of 2nd & 3rd place.
Wooden Spoon: John (149)

Our next whist drive will be held on **Friday, 7th March.**

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.**

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.

Village Hall History

Parishioners will have noted from last month's Grapevine that the first phase of the village hall improvements have been completed. Remaining work comprises the provision of a storage shed and additional kitchen equipment.

The major reason for the improvements was to bring the hall up to current standards so it could cater for the disabled as well as providing much needed additional kitchen space. The pre improvement situation resulted in the District Council being unable to sanction the use of the village hall for electoral purposes which, in the past, provided a valuable source of income for maintaining the village hall.

Members of the village hall committee recently met with representatives from the District Council who wished to inspect the hall to confirm that it now meets their requirements for use as a polling station. We have now heard officially that the village hall is compliant.

During the meeting with them they requested some information including the name of the village hall which many of you may not be familiar with. It is called the Cecil Bayton Hall which is recorded on a wooden plaque at the eastern end of the hall and dated 1979. I knew the history of the village hall as I have lived here since 1970 but some
members of the village hall committee did not know who Cecil Bayton was or how the village hall came into being.

I suddenly realised there are only a few left in the village who have lived here since 1970 and the village population has probably changed by over 50% in the last 40 years. I thought parishioners

might like to know the history of the village hall.

The village hall formed part of the former village school classroom which is attached to School House. The school was constructed around 1875 and closed in 1952. The last teacher was a Mrs Savage who moved to Icklingham to continue teaching. Various tenants lived at School House the last being Mavis Baker who was a teacher at Bradfield St George school and has now passed away and is buried in St. Clare churchyard. The school was owned by The Diocesan Education Trust who decided to sell it to Miss Baker including the school classroom which was being used as the village hall. The sale to Miss Baker would have resulted in the loss of the use of the classroom as a village hall. The village hall committee made representations to the agent handling the sale who offered to sell a plot of land next to the village hall so a new village hall could be built upon it. Clearly, to purchase the land and to build a new village hall was not financially or practically possible and the offer of the land was turned down and subsequently bought by Jim and Val Nunn who built their house upon it. At that time I carried out research into how possibly the village hall committee could challenge a community facility owned by an Education Committee being sold to a private individual. I discovered a facility within the then recent Local Government Act of 1972 by which the sale could be challenged. A local Enquiry was held to hear representations and adjudicated by the well-respected District Councillor Ted May from Rougham. Mr May decided that the school house could be sold to Miss Baker and the village hall (former classroom) sold to the village hall committee, a satisfactory outcome for everybody.

The village hall Committee effectively came into existence in the 1950’s when Mrs Edith Erskine who lived in Maynard House called a public meeting to consider using the old school for wider parish purposes other than for PCC meetings. One of the founder

members of the committee formed was Cecil Bayton, wife of John Bayton, and they lived in St Clare Hall. Over the following years the village Hall was extended and the Village Hall Committee became a charity. Various events took place to raise money to pay for the extensions to the hall and many financial contributions were made including a considerable sum from Cecil Bayton who with her husband John had left the village in 1973. The village hall, with its extensions which have lasted until the recent refurbishment, was officially opened in May 1979 and named The Cecil Bayton Hall in recognition of her involvement in the Village hall from the 1950's and her generous support in providing our much loved village facility.

Please all come and support activities at the village hall, that includes the Kit café with gorgeous food and come and play at the monthly whist drive where you will find friendly faces and a chance to chat about local issues and beyond.

Gerry Bullard

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



News from HOMEFIELD

Starting with the allotment this month. It's still too wet!! On the odd dry sunny day I think it's the right time to weed out and get the top soil moving, but as you walk over with your cup of coffee, the ground squelches under your boots. We still have parsnips, purple sprouting, the odd cabbage, leeks and beetroot. The carrots finished about a fortnight ago, probably the best we've ever had. If the last lot of carrots planted can be so good, what happened to the other three seedings earlier in the season that totally failed? The rhubarb is now starting to move and the fruit bushes have their new buds forming. Normally I put a straw covering on the rhubarb in November time but have left it off this year. The slugs took advantage of the cosy bed last year.

In the poly tunnel I've replanted broad beans (mice attack), we have sweetpeas (safe so far), onion seeds, lettuce, and garlic in pots. The idea was to transplant the garlic out when it dries up a bit, but they look so good I might leave them where they are. Over winter we had about half a dozen cauliflowers from the poly tunnel and now this plot has got about thirty lettuce plants for an early salad or two.

The potatoes in the container store are now finished and despite the blight attack which made me lift them early, kept very well. There are also a few apples in store, these were ones ‘scrumped’ last year. They were

put in boxes in one apples level and covered with Hessian sacks and have kept very well.

The ram we loaned in has I hope done his job and we can expect some lambs in May, around the same time as last year. The sheep are grazing at home at the moment, with additional hay and concentrate being fed. They will have to go down the road again soon as they are stripping the grass down, the idea being to bring them home again for lambing , where I can keep an eye on them.

All these decisions and rules for the season ahead. At the moment, with the rise in the cost of postage stamps, do I stop sending myself a Valentine's card every year (First Class of course) is high on the agenda. We'll get by! GLYN.



Bradfield Weather

Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Jan 2024	Jan 2025
90 mm	14 mm	79 mm	57 mm	51 mm
Feb 2021	**Feb 2022**	**Feb 2023**	**Feb 2024**	**Feb to 17th**
38 mm	42 mm	6 mm	128 mm	[12 mm]

This time last year we were still deluged in wet and had a wet spring to look forward to. This year, despite the cold grey slump which has sat upon us for too many days (at time of writing), it hasn't been a bad winter so far – do I speak too soon?! Our rainfall for the first month of the year is bang on for the 32yr average since our records began and a little below the most recent 10yr average of 53.8mm. Not much frost to report: January had 9 nights over the month when temperatures fell below freezing, one night of minus 6 but always rising during the day so it didn't get deep into the ground. Thus far February has had a few dips below zero but nothing of significance – what we've lacked is sunshine! According to the weather folk we're in for some much milder days, so who knows, by the time you read this we'll be in full blown spring sunshine with daffodils aplenty and hints of blossom.

If you've resisted cutting back your gardens over the winter, I commend you - it's so much better for the bugs and pollinators but now is the time to chop everything back and await the new growth with excitement for the year ahead!

Alice Ward-Thomas 19/02/25

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 5 March	Wednesday 20 August
Wednesday 2 and 30 April	Wednesday 17 September
Wednesday 28 May	Wednesday 15 October
Wednesday 25 June	Wednesday 12 November
Wednesday 23 July	Wednesday 10 December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 5 March	Blue Bin
Tuesday 11 March	Brown Bin
Wednesday 12 March	Black Bin
Wednesday 19 March	Blue Bin
Tuesday 25 March	Brown Bin
Wednesday 26 March	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

M.BAIRD DIGGERHIRE & GARDEN SERVICES

- **Mini Digger Hire + Operator**
- **Garden Clearance Services**
- **Patio and Driveway Laying**
- **Strimming Grass/Hedge Cutting**
- **Turf Laying/seeding**
- **Fencing and Tree Work**

ALL GROUND AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE UNDERTAKEN
Visit :-www.mbairdlandscapes.co.uk
CALL MARK on 01284386865 or 07725625760



St.Clare Church

An update on some changes regarding our lovely village Church. From October last year the PCC took the decision to leave the Church open at all times, this appears to be successful and welcomes anyone passing by to pop in for quiet reflection.

Our Church is kept clean and tidy by Betty and Angela, and the grass cared for by Chris - very much appreciated.

I will shortly be drawing up a 'Flower Rota' to run through the year. Please contact me if you'd like to be included. Our Church Services are now generally Holy Communion 2nd Sunday of the month closely followed by Evening Service the following week (3rd Sunday). Occasional changes for Special Services. Therefore we just require flowers once a month for the 2nd weekend which will then be appreciated at the following weeks service too.

Holy Communion is at 11.00am and Evening service at 4pm in March, but once the clocks alter at the end of March so we move the Service to 6pm for the lighter summer evenings.

Full advertising will soon appear for our summer fundraising **OPEN GARDEN/JAZZ AFTERNOON**, Sunday 15th June 2pm - 5pm at The Lodge, Bradfield St.Clare. We shall have a cake stall (calling all bakers), tombola (all donations gratefully received) and of course refreshments. Any offers of help always appreciated , these events are always enjoyed by many.

Mothering Sunday is 30th March - watch out for a small plant arriving on your doorstep the week preceding, to bring each and everyone a smile!

Our Church is a very happy place to be and everyone is made welcome.

Lorraine Morley - 07742151667



You are invited to a fundraising talk in aid of **Little Whelnetham Church**

Healing the Hands of Malawi

an illustrated talk by Tony Barabas

Consultant plastic & hand surgeon in the NHS Cambs. formerly of Little Whelnetham

The LION project:

a 5 year plan introducing hand surgery to Malawi

Saturday 8 March 2025

7 for 7.30

Bradfield St George Village Hall, IP30 0AS

Tickets £20 Including a 2 course hot meal

Bar and raffle

Available from

Jan Golding: janblof@aol.com 07768180695

Steve Smith: 01284 388311 calafell@btinternet.com

Alix Barabas: 01284 386305 alixbarabas@hotmail.com

Please advise of dietary requirements when booking.

Lee Jardine
Electrical Services

- All Domestic Electrical Work
- Rewires/New Installations
- New/replacement lights and sockets
- Electric Showers/Hobs and Ovens
- 24 Hour Emergency Call Out
- Landlords Compliance Certificates

Tel: 01284 361 986 Mob: 07444 272 472

Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

Now playing…



I hope you don't mind me using up a small bit of space in this newsletter to share a bit of a passion with you all.

Myself and Adam are big music fans and are always listening to music so I thought we'd occasionally recommend or review an album that you could have a listen to if you fancy. And we like discovering different music and welcome any suggestions or stories from anyone else who would like to join in too.

This month - we're listening to the album 'A Deeper Cut' by The Temperance Movement (as we're excited to be going to see them live later in March). They are a British blues rock band who have recently reformed - this is our favourite album by the band and brings back good memories as it came out the year we met, 2018. Give it a try!

Sarah & Adam (please send suggestions to stclaregrapevine@gmail.com)

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