THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



May 2025 No:235

Dear Neighbours,

This month, we're excited to bring you another issue packed with village news, updates, and events to look forward to. With plenty happening in the coming weeks, there's something for everyone, including details on upcoming events like the Open Garden with The Jazz Breakers in June.

We'll also be looking back on the success of recent events that brought the community together, sharing some highlights and celebrating the hard work of those who made them happen. You'll find updates on these alongside our favorite regular articles, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

With longer days and warmer weather arriving, there's plenty to keep you inspired and informed in this month's edition.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader,

I have always looked forward to the month of May, first because the weather is (normally) getting warmer, and secondly because there are two bank holidays in May. Unfortunately in recent years our expectations of bank holiday weather have become very low, and the barbecue equipment has stayed firmly in the shed/garage when those expectations have been met!

Thinking about barbecues has made me reflect on food this month, and in our churches we will be focusing on all those around the world who are in desperate need for food, which in 2023 was estimated to be between 713 and 757 million. One in eight people go hungry every evening. This is a sad reflection on the world today. Food security is becoming a huge issue, due to several factors including natural disasters and conflict across the world.

Every year our benefice churches carry out a house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week to help those who are in poverty and literally going hungry. I have been collecting for Christian Aid for over 30 years, and have encountered many generous people who themselves have not been very well off. Many years ago I was partnered in my collecting by a friend and her two small boys. One of the boys started to look through the letter boxes that were about his height and telling us what was inside. 'There's a bicycle in their hall!', 'there's a fish tank!'. I have also had several encounters with dogs during my collecting – but thankfully have never been injured!

It is not easy in our current climate to ask for money, but we feel it is our duty as Christians to care for all in our world, not just our own society. Christian Aid Week takes place 11-17 May, so look out for the envelope that will be posted through the door asking for a donation – I hope you will be able to give generously and to deliver your donation to the address which will be provided on the envelope.

Yours in Christ,
Canon Sharon

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

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - May 2025
Christian Aid Week - 11-17 May 2025

Saturday 3 May	10.00 - 12.30 Plant Sale & Coffee Morning - Cockfield Church
Sunday 4 May Easter 3	9.30am Holy Communion - Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham
Saturday 10 May	3-5pm at Felsham Village Hall All children welcome - must be accompanied by a parent/carer
Sunday 11 May Easter 4	10am Morning Prayer - Cockfield 11am Holy Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 13 May	11am Holy Communion - Felsham
Thursday 15 May	2-4pm Village Friends - Felsham Village hall
Sunday 18 May Easter 5	10.30am Benefice Rogation Service at Bishop's Farm, Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 24 May	2-4pm Knit'n'knatter group at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
Sat-Mon, 24-26 May	9.30 - 16.30 Art Exhibition - Cockfield Church
Sunday 25 May Easter 6	9.30am Holy Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George 10am Holy Communion - Gedding
Sunday 1 June Easter 7	9.30am Holy Communion - Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham

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 15 May
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

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, Saturday, 17th May from 11am-1pm

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

Once again there was a fantastic atmosphere at our April opening on Easter Saturday. We had a quick count up and there were around 45 people at the busiest time! It was certainly all go in the kitchen and we are very grateful to our helpers who keep the coffee and tea flowing not to mention the washing up. The hall looked lovely with Easter decorations on the table and the food provided was delicious. Special thanks to all those who baked cakes, biscuits, scones, sausage rolls and much more.

Please come and join us for our next opening on **Saturday, 17 th May any time between 11 am and 1pm for coffee, tea, cakes and savouries.** We are always grateful when somebody brings a cake or plate of their favourite recipe to share. 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.



Some of the delicious bakes on offer at April's KIT Cafe!

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07919 105374

Village Hall Whist Drive



We had another good turnout for our April Whist Drive. Fifteen players enjoyed some very close games and once again the dreaded dummy had to make an appearance to complete a fourth table.

The winning ladies were:
1st Place: Pat (176)
2nd Place: Shirley (172)
3rd Place: Bella (168)
Wooden Spoon: Mary (127)

The winning gentlemen were:
1st Place: Jim (174)
2nd Place: Val (playing as a man – 166)
3rd Place: Justine (also playing as a man – 153)
Wooden Spoon: Ean (148)

Our next whist drive will be held on **Friday, 2nd May.** 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.

Churchyard Tidy up

We can't thank enough the 15 adults, 1 little girl and 2 dogs who helped, and did a wonderful job in our churchyard.

We thank Tom for bringing his BBQ and cooking for us, along with coffee and soft drinks it was a jolly affair.

Our thanks to Mike and Lorraine for all they produced to make it a happy morning.

The churchyard has now been mown and looking good. The trees that had grown in the nature reserve at the back, have been potted up, and will be planted down church lane in the autumn.

In the meantime they are being cared for by Will and Sue, so we know they will be fine.

Thank you all,
Margaret



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

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.**

We will also have various games that will need to be ‘manned’.

Also a request for gazebos and assistance to erect them for our event.

Any offers of help please contact Lorraine - 07742151667

Thank you

Tickets cost £10 each with strawberries and cream, tea/coffee and must be purchased in advance (under 16’s go free - purchase refreshments).



News from HOME FIELD



The allotment is now beginning to fill up again after a good rotavating and weeding. With the warm dry days the ground broke down very well and with the overnight frosts the dream is that all the weeds and pests are now gone for a whole season. So far I've drilled carrots, beetroot, Spring onions and peas, all are coming through. The peas have grown well and I'm very thankful I put a net over the trellis as the pigeons keep eyeing them up. One note to myself when putting the net away in the autumn...clear all the old runner beanstalks and grass from the net. It amazes me how one little twig can sew itself through the squares so only half the net is useful without surgery.

I've planted three rows of second early Charlotte potatoes and one of Marfona. Maybe a couple more rows will be needed but the space will not be wasted. Sweet peas and broad beans have been transplanted out and have taken well. The onions, Bedfordshire Champion, which were started from seed are also now out, we are still using onions from
last year so I know they keep well. I was late getting red onion seed but they are now chitting. The red and white onion sets were not very good at all last year so maybe seed suits my system better. The garlic I was tempted to keep in pots two months ago has been planted out and looks so much better.

In the polytunnel I have butternut squashes, pumpkins, courgettes, cucumber and marrow ready to go out. There are also a few melons which will replace the lettuces in the tunnel that we've just started using.

The weather, as ever, (that's where the poetry ends!) is the big consideration at the moment. All good books say not to plant out until after the last frost. If I knew when that would be I'd play the lottery. It's like going out for the day

in the car, do I wear shorts,T-shirt, trousers, wooly pully, raincoat, sun hat, wellies, trainers? I fill the boot up, get there and find you actually need a snowsuit. Maybe it's better to stay at home and enjoy everything that is around us.

The sheep are due to come home in a couple of weeks, they are due to lamb in mid May. At the time of writing they are all ok. The sheep (Flying Flock....but they don't) on the big meadows must soon have finished lambing. The dry weather, although cold at night, seems to have made for a good lambing season. There is something special about leaning on the gate watching the lambs gang up and roar around the field before mum says lights out. All I need now is a piece of straw and my mardlers certificate.

Glyn

City & Guilds

Lee Jardine
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Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

Bradfield Weather

March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025
34.5 mm	30.5mm	86.5 mm	43 mm	1 mm
April 2021	**April 2022**	**April 2023**	**April 2024**	**April 2025**
3 mm	10 mm	48 mm	32mm to 19th	16mm to 20th

1mm of rain in March!! And only 16mm (just under an inch) for April so far, which fell in one night; but it was good steady rain and the ground was noticeably spongy for the following week. We definitely need some more though! This long spell of calm, dry weather has reminded me of the first Covid lock down – goodness five years has passed by fast – but it's been glorious and the blossoms, daffodils and tulips have all flowered for ages. I noted that this time last year I'd commented on the windiness of the week and that bees don't like to fly in such conditions. We had very little fruit set last year – no peaches and, although our orchard is very young, only one apple! I'm hoping this year, with these optimum conditions for pollinators, that it will be more fruitful (literally).

Since the middle of March there has only been a tiny bit of frost, just a couple of nights earlier this month but too early yet to plant out your tender annuals. And according to Tom's charts we hit 27.9°C on the 11 th April! I adore this time of year, the trees in the park here are at that wonderful stage where you can still see the structure of the branches but they're almost all greening up. So many different hues – the ochre tones of the oaks, which are busting with flower, the brighter green of the horse chestnuts, again laden with candles and pinky hues of the young Indian chestnuts – all delightful. The blackthorn has been wonderful with roadsides laden and the hawthorn (May blossom) is about to burst – 'Ne'er cast out a clout till May be out,' it's almost time for T-shirts andshorts!

And the swallows are back! As per last year, I saw one in Northumberland on the 7 th with the first sighting here on the 12 th . We could do with some rain to help with their nest building – back to rain again!

Alice Ward-Thomas (21 st April)

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

BIN COLLECTIONS

Thursday 1 May	Blue Bin
Check dates (Bank Holiday)	Brown Bin
Check dates (Bank Holiday)	Black Bin
Wednesday 14 May	Blue Bin
Tuesday 20 May	Brown Bin
Wednesday 21 May	Black Bin
Check dates (Bank Holiday)	Blue Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Parish Council Meetings

- **13th May 2025** - Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.
- **12th August 2025 and 11th November 2025**

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ - 28th MARCH 2025

May we say a big “Thank You” to everyone who came to the quiz at the end of March. Eight teams enjoyed closely fought competition and whilst there always has to be a winner, it is certain that all found the evening fun.

Your huge generosity raised £310!!!

Proceeds were split between village hall funds and Prostate Cancer UK.

There will be another quiz (or two!) later in the year. Details will appear in the Grapevine and on the village noticeboard. We hope to see a full house.

Thank you, once again.
Clive and Sue Leal and Isobel Payne

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Bradfield St. Clare Village Hall Fund Raising: Note for Your Diaries

Friday 25th July 2025 in Bradfield St George Village Hall - An Evening With Charles Garland.

The evening will comprise a talk by Charles Garland and will no doubt include a question and answer section. Some of you may have attended an event where Charles has spoken and know how amusing he can be. Charles is a writer, composer, television producer and director. He worked at the BBC in Shepherd's Bush on every type of programme over the years including'Allo! Allo!'and 'Dad's Army' being an assistant to David Croft O.B.E. He has had books published including 'Painted Angel' and a hilarious collection of whimsical verses titled 'My Labrador Eats Poo'. He and his family are known to me and my wife Dianne as Charles's father was rector at Hartest when she lived there and I went to school with Charles at the King Edward vi Grammar School in Bury in the 1960's. He is now semi retired and lives locally.

This is a not to be missed event. Further details of ticketing and refreshment arrangements will be published in next months Grapevine. Please note that the event will be held in the Bradfield St George Village Hall, (which has greater seating capacity than our Village Hall).

Gerry Bullard

Bishops Farm Beef

Home produced Aberdeen Angus Beef
Grass fed available for collection.

Beef is hung in a chiller for 6 weeks after slaughter which enhances the tenderness and flavour.

All meat is prepared by Thurston Butchers and vacuum packed.

Steak mince, burgers and casserole beef available.

Order from Mike Morley om 07768 6688 86 or
bishops.farm@yahoo.co.uk - or pop along to see the cattle.

Remembering VE Day

Victory in Europe Day, observed each year on 8th May, marks the end of World War II in Europe in 1945. This year, we commemorate a special milestone—the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It's a time to reflect on the sacrifices made during the war and to honour the resilience of that generation.

While celebrations took place across Britain on VE Day, it also served as a reminder of the importance of peace. As we mark this significant anniversary, let's keep its historical significance in mind and continue fostering a spirit of unity within our community.

A huge thank you

I'd like to say, and I'm sure many of you will join me, a huge thank you first of all to the editors past and present, contributors, regular and occasional, and distributors of this super little village magazine.

To those who serve on the Parish Council the P.C.C and the Village Hall committee who have recently overseen the transformation of our super village hall, a truly mammoth task - well done!

To those who organise and help with the famous monthly Whist Drive and KIT café, the frequent, very enjoyable quiz nights, and the occasional bigger events.

To the 'litter pickers' occasional and regular and those who turned out in considerable numbers to tidy the church yard. To those who keep our village hall and church wonderfully clean and tidy, and those flower ladies who keep the church looking beautiful. To the mowers of the churchyard and village green who keep it tidy and bright with flowers. For the post box decorator – amazing.

To our neighbourhood watch and those who distributed and installed the new grit bins (no, the council did not do it). The veg and plant stall keeping our garden supplied. The people keeping our paths open and accessible and personally to my 3 Musketeers and the "horse whisperer"! For all my friends and neighbours, good Samaritans who keep an eye on me, not just me but all the senior citizens, especially those who live alone.

It is all too easy to take for granted these unsung heroes and heroines but because of their contribution in time, energy and enthusiasm, St Clare is not just a village it's a thriving community - a very pleasant place to live.

So, a very heartfelt genuine thank you to all.

Pat Hipwell

PS your generosity is shown in the fact that the Easter spring marmalade sale has already made more than £100 – fantastic.

Apologies to any people I may have missed out!

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

Now playing…



Smith/Kotzen

This month, we're revisiting the self-titled debut album from Smith/Kotzen, released in 2021. While their latest album *Black Light/White Noise* (released 4th April 2025) is worth a listen, their debut remains a standout. Tracks like *Running* and *Scars* showcase their blend of bluesy rock with strong guitar work and harmonised vocals.

For those unfamiliar, Richie Kotzen has played with Poison and The Winery Dogs, while Adrian Smith is one of Iron Maiden's iconic guitarists. We've had the pleasure of seeing them live before, and we're hoping they'll hit the road again this year!

We love discovering different music and welcome any recommendations!

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