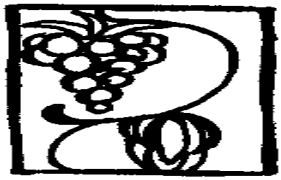
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



November 2025 No:241

Dear Neighbours,

There is plenty to look forward to in the village this month, with community events and projects that bring everyone together.

As autumn deepens and the evenings draw in, November brings plenty of activity in the village. This month's issue includes a summary of the Harvest Festival, along with some lovely photographs from the service.

This month also brings a chance to test your trivia skills at our **Charity Quiz Night on Friday 21 November**, raising funds for the **Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital**, a fantastic local cause. Gather your teams and get ready for a fun evening.

Towards the end of the month, a **Tree Planting Day** will take place on **26 November**, when volunteers can help create an avenue of trees leading up to the church.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader,

Remember, remember, the 5th of November. How I loved to hear that as a child because I couldn't wait to watch the fireworks being sent into the night sky by families on our street where I grew up. We would have a few fireworks of our own (including sparklers of course), and then we would run upstairs to the back bedroom window to survey the world as the night sky was lit up over and over again. I also love November for the colours that it brings to the trees, and the thought of Christmas being only 6 weeks away! (I must admit that hearing Christmas songs playing in a local garden centre last week before we've even had Bonfire Night rather disturbing....)

In the Christian tradition we often call November 'the season of remembering' when we commemorate the departed, including those who died in conflicts. This season includes All Saints' Day (November 1st), which honours all the saints of the Church, both named and unnamed, and those who have gone before us in the faith; All Souls Day (November 2nd), a day set aside for mourning and remembering all who have died, and Remembrance Sunday (second Sunday in November), where we commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who have died in war.

In our benefice this year we will be celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday 2nd November, and Remembrance Sunday on 9th November. You can find details of the services on those Sundays on the rota on the next page. I hope you will be able to join us for those services, and especially Remembrance Sunday as we remember all those who gave their lives so that we could live in freedom.

In the meantime, on a cheerier note, I'm really looking forward to the fireworks parties that will be taking place on or around 5th November. Poor old Guy Fawkes – I wonder what he would have thought of us celebrating his demise every year with a bang and a fizzle – and perhaps a hotdog or two. I hope that whatever you are doing to celebrate Guy Fawkes night you will have an enjoyable evening – and will stay safe!

Yours in Christ

Canon Sharon

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

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - November 2025

Saturday 1 November	2pm-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome. Cake/tea/coffee will be provided!
Sunday 2 November **All Saints Day**	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Six2seven at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 9 November **Remembrance Sunday**	10.45am Service of Remembrance at Cockfield 10.45am Service of Remembrance at Felsham 10.45am Service of Remembrance at Bradfield St George 10.45am Act of Remembrance at Bradfield Combust War Memorial
Tuesday 11 November	11am Holy Communion at Felsham Village Hall
Saturday 15 November	Messy Church for all children accompanied by a parent/carer. 3-5pm venue tbc for more details contact Canon Sharon
Sunday 16 November **2nd Sunday before Advent**	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at Felsham Village Hall 10.30am Holy Communion at Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 20 November	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall, with Advent Activities.
Sunday 23 November **Christ the King**	9.30am Holy Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 30 November **Advent Sunday**	10.30am Thanksgiving Communion at Bradfield St George

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 20 November
2-4pm
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month we shall have some Advent Activities.
Sandwiches/cake/tea/coffee & our normal raffle!

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)

We have also begun planning for our annual Christmas meal which takes place on **Thursday 11th December 12.30-3pm.** Please let Canon Sharon know if would like to attend for catering purposes. There is no charge for the meal.

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

VILLAGE QUIZ

FRIDAY 21 ST NOVEMBER 7.30pm
BRADFIELD ST CLARE VILLAGE HALL

This quiz is in aid of the **Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital.**

There is no charge for entry but donations will be gratefully received.

Bring your own drinks. Nibbles provided

Please come. Have some fun and support a very worthwhile cause.

Tickets from Isobel Payne on 07888 649809 0r 01284 386169

John Skelly Fish Limited

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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:
<u>Saturday, 15th November from 11 am – 1 pm</u>

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.

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

Village Hall Whist Drive



Our next whist drive will be held on
Friday, 7th November

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 Jim with 180 points.

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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St Clare Church

Harvest Festival update

Thanks to Margaret Lovick's suggestion we celebrated Harvest at Bishops Farm September 26th, what a lovely service, a good number of Villagers and folk from across The Benefice. We were sharing the collection between St.Clare Church and FCN (Farming Community Network) and thanks to peoples generosity we shared £310. Alongside this we donated food goods to the Bury Foodbank - Thankyou to Sue and Clive Leal for delivering the goods on their return from holiday. In turn there is a 'Thankyou' for these goods on the Church Notice Board. What a generous community.

Sunday 19th October is our last Evening Service at 6pm, moving to 4pm through the winter months, please come and join us, all welcome. From the last weekend of October the external Church lights will be lit nightly through the winter, always a pleasing sight for all to see.









TREE PLANTING on Church Lane

At our last Church yard clearance Sue and Will potted up some saplings from within the Churchyard and have nurtured them alongside other trees ready for planting at the right time along Church Lane. **Wednesday 26th November at 10.30am** please come and join us to plant these with protective guards generously provided by Marcus. Let's hope this time they are kept safe from wildlife and grow into a beautiful avenue of trees leading to our beautiful Church. Please let Lorraine know if you can join us (07642151667). Coffee and cake provided to share.

Please remember and look out for our neighbours, we can all help each other.

Best wishes from the Church Wardens.

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

News from Homefield

It's now time to start clearing up the allotment and put away the netting,stakes,wires etc for another year. Also, and probably more important, the various wooden handled tools, spades, forks, and hoes which seem to rot quickly after drying out totally over the summer.

The sweetcorn has all been harvested and frozen, probably the best we've grown (climate change?). The lettuces are, with the cooler days, performing to my master plan of two or three a week ready to eat. Do we still get Indian Summers, which I haven't allowed for? The squashes have all been harvested and put to cure, with the surplus being put out the front. The butternut squash took the first prize this year, with over sixty fruits being produced. Runner beans started quite well, but with the first heavy rainstorm we lost a lot of flowers so they petered out a bit. Dwarf beans did well, including the late row drilled after the sweetpeas. It surprises me how many pods they can hide under the leaves. I check them every few days and then all of a sudden there is a multitude ready for picking. The rest of the green tomatoes are ripening in the polytunnel with a few chillies and peppers. The four rows of carrots and beetroot planted on 6th July have eventually emerged and growing well. They have emerged through the weeds that I didn't get round to hand weeding. Maybe the weeds have acted as a cover crop and it's another allotment innovation or wait for the weed seeds to grow next year and wished I had taken more time to weed properly. The 'prize winning' sunflowers around the allotment have all been cleared. In the aforementioned storm the winds broke a lot of them down, some of the heads were 18" across and far too top heavy. I managed to shred all but five of the stalks which were over 2" in diameter. They made a good half a builders bag of mulch, so another win.

There is not a lot to report with the sheep, they are all doing ok. A little manicure for overgrown hooves now and again but nothing bad. They were brought home six weeks ago and the "flying flock" took over down the road. It will soon be time to take the lambs away and think about next year's strategy.

And,finally,as they say, I wondered what I wrote about in the Grapevine ten years ago (it often happens when I can't think of what to write).

November 2015 No:132

The cows were finishing up the grazing before coming into the yards for winter (Nov 5th). The milk yield had jumped recently to 1150 litres, every other day, it was 950l in September. The cows were getting wheat straw in their feeders at night, to fill them up and increase their fibre intake. This had pushed up the butterfat and protein in the milk, which in turn increased my milk price, August 25p/litre, September 26p/litre, add to this 0.3p/litre increase in October and a £3/tonne decrease in cow nuts I must have been quids in!! Funny how milk price cuts are in whole pence/litre and feed prices are increased by £10/tonne. The cows are gorging themselves on acorns and crabapples resulting in "tummy ache". There was also the sight of 80-90 swallows feeding on the insects disturbed by the cows as they walked through the grass, also, the hedgehog foraging at the bottom of the driveway ready for his winter snooze. Three heifer (female) calves were born in Sept/Oct to top it all off, idyllic.

Ahhh the memories.

Glyn

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Bradfield Weather

Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	Sept 2025
67 mm	42 mm	65 mm	85 mm	52 mm
Oct 2021	**Oct 2022**	**Oct 2023**	**Oct 2024**	**Oct 2025**
95.5 mm	38 mm	168 mm	64mm	[57mm -25th]

In the past week or so there's been a real change of season – to be expected I suppose! We've had a fair amount of rain and looking at Tom's soil moisture chart, the water content has risen in the past couple of weeks. I think I remember him telling me that the ideal for soil was 25% water – in September this year it averaged at 14%, thus far in October it's averaged nearer 18%, and it currently stands at 24%. Our rainfall was 52 mm in September – our 32 yr average for the village for September is about 49mm and thus far we've had 57mm for October and our average is 63mm, so all pretty standard.

No frosts as yet but over the weekend we put our more tender plants under cover – something I probably should have done a few weeks ago but my excuse has been that giving them a bit of 'tough love' at the start of autumn might help to get them through the winter (there's no evidence to suggest this will work but makes me feel better for not having done it sooner).

I don't know about you but I'm not overwhelmed by the wonderfulness of the autumn colour this year. I think because so many trees have been so stressed by this dry summer, many of them had a 'leaf drop' early (a self-preservation mechanism to reduce transpiration ie loss of water through leaves). The birches here looked wonderful for about 3.5 seconds and then all their leaves blew off and I think that has been the case for many trees. But autumn isn't a time for looking back as that's depressing, it's a time for making plans for next year – now where's my bulb catalogue…?

Alice Ward-Thomas 27th October

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 12th November
Wednesday 10th December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 4 November	Brown Bin
Wednesday 5 November	Black Bin
Wednesday 12 November	Blue Bin
Tuesday 18 November	Brown Bin
Wednesday 19 November	Black Bin
Wednesday 26 November	Blue Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Parish Council Meetings - 11th November 2025

Loft Insulation

Suffolk Councils have teamed up to pay for loft insulation up to £200. Anyone in Suffolk can receive a 50% discount off their purchase of 200mm or 370mm wide insulation rolls (up to £200) with free delivery, from High Loft eco loft insulation brand. Go to www.bit.ly/suffolkloft and fill in the short form or call High Loft on 01706 248203. *The offer will close once the allocated funding has been spent*

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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

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Contact Val Nunn for bookings (details above)