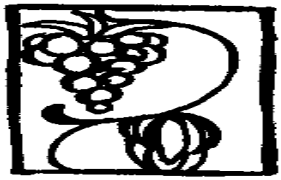
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



November 2026 No:251

Dear Neighbours,

We have another packed issue this month, with details of upcoming events, along with updates on some recent activities and how they went.

Our *Meet the Villagers* feature continues this month with Keith Payne. Many thanks to Keith for taking the time to contribute, and of course to everyone who sends in news, articles and updates to help keep The Grapevine going.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. As always, if you have anything you'd like to share in a future edition, please do get in touch!

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

From the Rector's study....

I have a confession to make – I love jelly babies. When I was younger I had a very sweet tooth, and jelly babies were always one of my favourites. Why should I mention this? Well, did you know that jelly babies were introduced in 1918, at the end of the First World War to celebrate peace. In fact, they were known as 'peace babies', a surprising fact from over a century ago.

The peace of the world has been shattered once again, with conflicts raging in many places. It feels as though we have gone backwards rather than forwards in achieving peace.

In John chapter 14, verse 27 of the Bible, Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives'. There is a difference between the peace that Jesus gives us and the world's peace. The world's peace depends on circumstances, the absence of conflict or temporary comforts. Jesus' peace is a deep, inner calmness; that strength that remains steady even in the middle of whatever is troubling us, or which is making us fearful, or is causing us suffering.

Jesus offers us His peace as a free gift, we don't have to earn it. At the end of verse 27 he says, 'do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid'. My prayer for us all is that we will listen to His words, and accept that Jesus can be our salvation, and bring us peace.

In this season of Remembering, we shall be holding an 'All Souls' Service at Felsham at 3pm on Sunday 1 November. If you'd like to add a name to the list of those who will be remembered and prayed for at this service then do drop me a line or message me. And do join us at one of the Remembrance Sunday services on 8 November, where we will remember all those who died for our freedom.

every blessing

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com,
tel: 01284 828599, 07825 086063.

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - November 2026

Sunday 1 November **All Saints/All Souls**	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 3pm All Souls Service at Felsham
Monday 2 November	7.15pm Community/Benefice Choir Rehearsal at Felsham Village hall. All welcome!
Saturday 7 November	2-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome!
Sunday 8 November **Remembrance**	10.45am Service of Remembrance at Bradfield Combust War Memorial (Outdoor) 10.45am Service of Remembrance at Cockfield 10.45am Service of Remembrance at Felsham
Tuesday 10 November	11am Holy Communion at Felsham Village Hall followed by Soup & Sandwiches
Saturday 14 November	Cockfield Christmas Craft Fair at Cockfield Village Hall, IP30 0LA. 10am-2.30pm. Free entry.
Saturday 14 November	Messy Church 3-5pm, at Felsham Village Hall. For all children accompanied by parents/carers.
Sunday 15 November **Safeguarding Sunday/** **2nd before Advent**	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 10am Café Church at Felsham 10.30am Holy Commmunion at Cockfield 4pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 22 November **Christ the King**	8.30am Holy Communion BCP (said) at Gedding 9.30am Holy Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10.30am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 29 November **Advent Sunday**	10.30am Benefice Communion at Bradfield St Clare with guest preacher the Archdeacon of Sudbury

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

Thursday 19 November
New members welcome!
2-4pm at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month we have an Advent Activity
No fee - food - tea - 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)

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

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KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

Our next opening will be:
Saturday, 21st November 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 Isobel's monthly quiz. No prizes but very entertaining. October's winners were Clive and Sue and Will and Sue who answered all questions correctly.

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, 6th November at 7:30pm

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.**

From December we will be changing the date of our whist drives to the second Friday of each month. This is so that it will not clash with Bradfield St George's Bradfield Nights and hopefully we can attract some new players.

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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THANK YOU!

Sue and I would like to say thank you to all the people of our village – and those from Sicklesmere, Cockfield, Rattlesden, West Suffolk Hospital and beyond – who sponsored us for the recent Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride.

We raised a pleasing £390 and 50% of that will be returned directly to our church.

Thank you again!

Sue and Clive Leal

FOOD BANK

We would also like to thank donors to the food bank. We have adopted the Vinery Church Food Bank and the first delivery was made in early October. They are trying to fill the gap left by the closure of Gatehouse Food Bank, so all donations will be gratefully received.

There is a box in the church porch and one outside the front door of The Maltings on Bury Road.

Sue and Clive Leal



Bradfield Weather

Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024	Sept 2025	Sept 2026
42 mm	65 mm	85 mm	52 mm	19 mm
October 2022	**October 2023**	**Oct 2024**	**Oct 2025**	**Oct 2026**
38 mm	168 mm	64mm	65 mm	68 mm

Rain! I've almost had to get my calculator out to add it up. But you know what I'm going to say… not nearly enough yet. This summer has induced much chat amongst the gardening fraternity. What changes should we make? The combination of this summer and last has led me to the conclusion that I must take out some of the plants in our big perennial garden, which just aren't thriving – Monarda (bee balm), Physostegia (obedient plant), Actaea (bugbane) would all like more moisture. Next summer is predicted to be as bad, and I don't choose that word lightly.

September and October have been joyous I think. The garden has received a bit of moisture, the weed explosion has been immense (slightly losing our battle to remove them all before they get their roots too established), and the drop in temperature has given all plants a lift. Quite a few are confused, particularly the herbaceous stuff. Having gone dormant over the summer I think they think it's spring and are putting on growth. They'll have another surprise when winter comes but should be fine next year. The Asters (we should call them Symphyotrichums now or we could just stick to Michaelmas daisies!) have been superb, I recommend them for shunning drought and brightening up the autumn and similarly most of the grasses are putting on a lovely autumn display.

I've been dividing plants (they're free!) and planting new stock this week. There's a little give in the ground as I walk across the garden but you only have to dig a small hole to see how very dry it still is only 5

inches down. Everything is getting a good watering in (with a watering can) and hopefully will establish before the ground temperature drops. I had meant to get all this done in September and early October but it's been too dry and I've been too busy. I'm always playing catch up!

For anyone who hasn't seen the signs, Bury road will be closed for three days 3-5th November outside ours as UK Power networks do some tree work in the roadside strip. Apologies to our neighbours for the noise and the inconvenience to everyone else.

Alice Ward-Thomas 25th October

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

Church Warden Report

Well on a wet and mizzy day sending out warm wishes from all at St.Clare Church.

We enjoyed sharing Harvest Festival at St.George this year, hence no evening service for us in October.

Looking to the last few months of 2026, we have Communion service 11.00am Sunday 1st November, followed by Evening Prayer 4pm and the Benefice Communion Sunday 29th November at 10.30am, it being a FIVE Sunday month. Please note through the winter months Evening Prayer is at 4pm to cater for the darker evenings.

Then all of a sudden we reach December - Please come to join us at 7pm Thursday 17th for the wonderful Carol Service. All welcome with light refreshments following. The more people the warmer it will be!

This year as we forge connections throughout the Benefice, especially St.George Church, the very popular Crib Service is indeed at St.George 4pm Christmas Eve. What better way to start the festivities celebrating the birth of Jesus.

We shall be holding Communion on Christmas Day at 10.00am where a warm welcome will greet you.

Now the clocks have changed please enjoy the external lighting of St.Clare - shining brightly as you drive or walk through the village. Always a highlight of my year!

Do remember our lovely Church is always open so do pop in for a bit of peace and tranquility.

Adrian is doing a splendid job as our new Church Warden and we wish him well as he recovers from surgery.

A big Thankyou to all our flower suppliers and arrangers and to Margaret for her continued ‘sales’ outside her house, proceeds supporting St.Clare Church. Betty and Angela continue to keep our Church clean and welcoming.

Wishing everyone a safe and warm winter.

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Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

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 11 Nov 2026	Wed 9 Dec 2026

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

BIN COLLECTIONS

Friday 6th November	Blue Bin (+food waste)
Friday 13th November	Black Bin (+food waste)
Friday 20th November	Grey with green lid (+food waste)
Friday 27th November	Black Bin (+food waste)

For more information, including links to download all leaflets can be found here:

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

Meet the Villager - Keith Payne

Isobel and I arrived in Bradfield St Clare in April 2006, so I trust that I can be accepted as a villager! I was born in Rothley, a Leicestershire village, in1931. My mother moved into Leicester to be near her parents when my father, a heavy smoker before the dangers were known, died. I was just 6 months old. She brought up my elder brother and me, as a single mother, before the term existed. After attending Wyggeston Grammar School in Leicester, along with – amongst others - David Attenborough and his brothers, then doing National Service in the RAF for two years, I trained as a chartered accountant.

After qualifying I married and went to join my in-laws in Kenya in 1958. My father-in-law, who was French, was a teaching architect and had gone out to Nairobi to start an architectural course in what is now the University of East Africa. Life was good in the colony but when Kenya gained independence in 1963 there seemed little future for us and our two sons, so we moved with the company I worked for to Trinidad and Tobago. A short term contract turned out to last for seven years until we returned to England in 1990. Trinidad is by no means the best of the Caribbean islands, being tucked in close to the South American coast and having a very humid climate, but it was where the industry was at the time.

We lived firstly in Ruislip and then in Marlow, where my wife sadly died of cancer in 1983, treatment for cancer being almost non-existent in those days. I stayed in the family home in Marlow until 1999, then moved to an apartment by the river in Henley on Thames. My younger son Chris had moved to Perth in Australia,

where I visited every winter and it was easier to pack up and leave a flat, with no garden or burglars to worry about.

On holiday in 2001 in Italy, visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum, I met Isobel, who was our classical guide. A nightmare journey home on September 11th – 9/11 - rather threw us together and the rest – as they say – is history!

I arrived here from Henley in April 2006 and Isobel came two days later with two dogs, a blind cat and an elderly horse. I had insisted that she left the geese behind as the gander tended to bite me. Actually, he bit everyone!

I have tried to engage in village life, acting as church treasurer for many years and also as the Grapevine weather reporter until Alice took over and made it far more interesting! My current crusade is to try and get the speed limit extended beyond the village junction as far as Elm Green. I live in hope, but fear it may be my legacy!

I have always been interested in sport, playing tennis in my youth and golf until my hips decided they had had enough. True to my roots, I am a keen supporter of Leicester Tigers and Leicester City. Until recently a member of the MCC, I have spent more time than I care to calculate at cricket grounds around the world.

My main claim to fame is, of course, that I think that I am the oldest village inhabitant at 95 and a bit!

Felsham & Gedding PCC
are holding a

BEETLE DRIVE



AT FELSHAM & GEDDING VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

7pm for 7.30pm start
£10 per person, 4 to a table
with Pie & Pea Supper

Never been to a beetle drive before?
come and join in the fun!

Tel: 01449 736330 to book a table

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fundraising for Felsham & Gedding Churches

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 bobby.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
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)