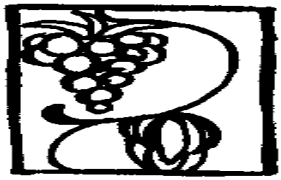
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



October 2025 No:240

Dear Neighbours,

October is here, and with it the real feeling of autumn - cooler mornings, colourful leaves, and plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

In this issue there are the regular updates you know and enjoy: KIT Café dates, parish council notes, and a mix of articles and local news.

Also, don't forget, the clocks go back an hour at 2am on Sunday 26th October!

As always, a big thank you to all our contributors for helping to bring the Grapevine together each month.

We hope you enjoy this edition… perhaps with a cup of something warm as the evenings draw in!

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

As I write this I can hear the wind whistling around the Rectory. It's been rather stormy weather of late, and I suspect we won't have seen the last of the storms as the last three months of the year begin.

Our unpredictable weather has made life difficult for our farmers. The spring weather was very good which meant that most of the winter barley and winter oilseed rape was harvested by August. But the latter stages of the harvest, particularly for wheat and spring barley, were challenging, resulting in lower yields for many with falling grain prices creating significant financial challenges.

It is a precarious business, and our hearts and prayers go out to all who have been affected by this year's challenges. As we celebrate the harvest in our churches and our schools this October, we shall be donating our service collections to local farming charities, as well as collecting food for our local foodbanks. For at the same time that farmers are having to sell their grain at lower prices, families are having to pay more for the food they are buying, and there are those who live in our communities who are struggling to make ends meet.

Some may wonder what the Church can do for those who are struggling. In fact the Church is one of the largest institutions in the UK that helps people with their food shopping. Many foodbanks are staffed by Christians from local churches. There are top-up shops in many urban areas, and in rural areas there are one or two 'porch projects' where food is left in the church porch for people to take if they are in need. Aside from this, our congregations are always generous in giving to the farming charities, and our diocese has an Agricultural Chaplain, whose name is Graham Miles. He is a volunteer and spends hours driving around Suffolk supporting farmers who need help.

If you know of someone who needs help, please do let me know because I can put them in touch with someone who can assist them, on a need-to-know basis.

And of course, all those who struggle are in our prayers.

Canon Sharon

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

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - October 2025

Saturday 4 October	2pm-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome!
Sunday 5 October **Trinity 16**	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion for creation at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 5 October	3-5pm, 'Pop up Afternoon Tea' at the Marquee, West Lodge, Bradfield St George, IP30 0DL. With 'Angels Delight Flute & Harp Duo'. No entry charge but please contact 01284 388311 or 079543 23461 to book for catering purposes.
Sunday 12 October **Trinity 17/Harvest**	10am Harvest Thanksgiving at Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship for Harvest at Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 14 October	11am Holy Communion at Felsham Village Hall
Thursday 16 October	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall - this month's theme, 'who do you think you are?'
Sunday 19 October **Trinity 18/Harvest**	9.30am Harvest Service with Holy Baptism at Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at Felsham Village Hall 10.30am Holy Communion with Holy Baptism at Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 26 October **Last Sunday after Trinity**	9.30am Holy Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George 1pm Holy Baptism at Gt Whelnetham 3pm Harvest Thanksgiving at Lt Whelnetham

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 16 October
2-4pm
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month our theme is 'Who do you think you are?'
So bring photos or other mementos of your family life - and a family tree if you have one!

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:
<u>Saturday, 18 th October 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, 3 rd October

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 Shirley with 166 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.

CARGATE
engineering

Septic Tank Emptying and Servicing

• Septic Tank and Cesspool Emptying • Tank and Drain Cleaning Service available • Reliable and Competitive • 24/7 Emergency Response
• Treatment Plant Service available • New Tanks installed
• Vehicles Covering East Anglia

Cargate Engineering Ltd.
Felsham Road, Bradfield St George,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0AG
E-mail: n.milsom@cargate-engineering.co.uk
www.cargateengineering.co.uk

BALMORAL Klargester

Always to hand when you need us!

01284 386538 (Head office)

St.Clare Church

Hello from St.Clare Church, another month whizzed by and we hope everyone's summer concluded well as we begin to think about cozy nights in, maybe lighting the wood burner and getting prepared for the autumn.

We've had a busy month at the Church, our usual services and the Suffolk Churches bike ride. Many thanks to Sue and Clive Leal, for riding for St.Clare and also Norman Kelly, riding for The Benefice. As always our Church has been well cared for, kept clean and beautiful floral decoration.

By the time you're reading this, the Harvest Festival will have been Cdccdccdc1hosted at Bishops Farm, as I write this (22/09/25), we are expecting 40plus people to celebrate with us and to share in bread, cheese and wine following.

Just a reminder - we have one more 6pm Evening Service on October 19th, before we move it to 4pm for the winter months. Please come and join us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to have Rev Fiona Malby introduce herself to the village. She is the new Benefice Assistant Curate. (this piece was written in July).

Best wishes from the Church Wardens.

Rev Fiona - our new Assistant Curate

I am very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know you all as I begin serving my curacy in the Cockfield Benefice. I will be moving with my family over the border from Essex to Suffolk. As I write, my eldest is in the middle of GCSE exams, and I am completing my masters degree and a dissertation. We have really valued your prayers for us as a family in recent months, thank you. I am a qualified teacher, and have spent a number of years teaching in primary schools across Berkshire and London. I have travelled widely, teaching English in the Czech Republic and the Philippines, and have served as a school governor in two different schools.

I have really valued both military and prison chaplaincy placements, as well as serving as a street pastor for several years. I have worked as a wedding and landscape photographer across London and Essex, and am also a writer, with two published novels and two short story collections. Training for ordained ministry at St. Augustine's College of Theology at Malling Abbey, in Kent, I have appreciated both the breadth of tradition and the depth of teaching. It has been wonderful to share chapel services, and sometimes classes, with the sisters at the abbey. They graciously share their space with students. It has been a particular joy to hear piano playing through the convent walls! I enjoy singing, and have sung in choral and gospel choirs. I love music, particularly jazz, as well as art and coastlines. I swim and go to the gym when time allows. As I begin my ministry as a deacon, my prayers are with you and each of the parishes in the benefice, and for Canon Sharon and the ministry team.

Grace and peace, Fiona.

Benjamins Gardening and Churchyard Services
GARDENING AND CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Fully insured gardening and clearance service, specialising in churchyard maintenance and mowing

fully licensed Pa1 and Pa6 spraying
mowing
hedge cutting
clearance
small tree stuff
firewood cutting and splitting
can also chip brash and logs up to a good size

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



www.tldesignworks.co.uk 01983 613237
hello@tldesignworks.co.uk 07919 105374

Autumn activities at Bishops Farm

As we turn land around for new autumn cropping the rain we've had in September has helped cultivated land soften and green up with previous crop volunteers and grass weeds, offering a great opportunity this year for pre-drill desiccation and a clean start ahead of drilling.

We've made a start drilling a new variety of wheat called Arnie which has gone in extremely well as our 1 st Wheat behind beans and we're just waiting on the Caravelle Barley seed now to drill Winter Barley. Seedbeds are favourable and we're probably around 7-10 days earlier than target date but it's better that way than being 7-10 days too late and the weather change against us. The last 2 autumns have been very difficult for drilling in the UK due to weather and I'm sure farmers the length and breadth of the country will be taking advantage of the current good conditions.

We have around half the farm to plant this Autumn with the rest already planted in cover crops ahead of spring drilling or in grass leys for cutting next spring and summer. We have around 30 acres to overwinter plough so sticking nicely with that 15% rotational amount, which is a massive improvement from where we started on our journey here in 2010 ploughing 100% of the farm!

Our cover crops are growing like mad and our visiting sheep flock have come early this year to graze what's left of the summer planted catch crops on the pipeline route. There's 120 out there at present on the 30m wide strip that runs the entire length of the farm. We are fortunate that conditions are favourable to then lightly cultivate that grazed ground ahead of drilling and we'll be glad to get that land back into a productive order and plant our crops back in the normal manor on the whole of each field.

Conditions are favourable; cover crops, grass leys, autumn drilling, cattle and sheep all look well, and the autumn colours are starting to set in. Long may tonight's red sky last into the pleasant season that is autumn; for a 'red sky at night is a Shepherds delight' and we are feeling humbled to be able to start off another cropping cycle in such good order.

Tom Rouse
Dairy Farm House

INTEGRATED ENERGY CONTRACTORS



INTEGRATED ENERGY CONTRACTORS

RENEWABLE HEATING & PLUMBING SOLUTIONS

MCS CERTIFIED

WHAT WE OFFER

- AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS
- UNDERFLOOR HEATING
- SMART CONTROLS
- MECHANICAL VENTILATION & HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEMS
- DOMESTIC PLUMBING SERVICES WITH SELF-CERTIFICATION
- UNVENTED DOMESTIC HOT WATER CYLINDERS



CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

01284 755056

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

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

Bradfield Weather

August 2021	August 2022	August 2023	August 2024	August 2025
16.5 mm	15.5 mm	66mm	13 mm	39 mm
Sept 2021	**Sept 2022**	**Sept 2023**	**Sept 2024**	**Sept 2025**
67 mm	42 mm	65 mm	85 mm	52 to 21st

Some time in August I had to plant three new plants in our perennial garden and really REALLY struggled to get the fork into the ground. I've had to be away a lot over the past month and inevitably a few plants kept finding their way into the boot of my car (strange how that keeps happening) but planting them has been a much easier experience!

I will always be amazed at how quickly nature responds. Several young trees have put on spurts of growth – trees often do this in late summer – and lawns have gone from crunching underfoot to needing mowing weekly. Have you noticed the wealth of acorns? This year is a 'mast year'. There's increasing research in improving our understanding of how trees 'communicate' with one another. If one tree in a wood is struggling, those around it will provide nutrition through the network of mycorrhizal fungi underground. They will also co-ordinate, every few years, to produce more fruit than foragers can consume which will ensure that some of their seeds will succeed in germination and establishment. I have, however, also heard that there's a drama with the World Conker championships held in Northamptonshire this year – because of the drought, conkers are too small and brittle.

39mm of rain in August – our 32 yr average is 60mm but the average for the past 10yrs has been 47mm – summers are getting drier.

Alice Ward-Thomas 23/9/25

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 15th October
Wednesday 12th November
Wednesday 10th December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 1 October	Blue Bin
Tuesday 7 October	Brown Bin
Wednesday 8 October	Black Bin
Wednesday 15 October	Blue Bin
Tuesday 21 October	Brown Bin
Wednesday 22 October	Black Bin
Wednesday 29 October	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*

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…



The HU

The HU are something truly different in the rock and metal world. They formed in Mongolia less than ten years ago and describe their style as *Hunnu Rock*—a mix of heavy guitars and pounding drums with traditional Mongolian throat singing and instruments like the horse-head fiddle. It's a sound that feels ancient but hits with real modern power.

They've only released two albums so far, *The Gereg* in 2019 and *Rumble of Thunder* in 2022, yet they've already built a worldwide reputation. Songs such as *Wolf Totem* show how music can cross language barriers—the rhythm and delivery say everything you need to know.

The HU are also a live band through and through. Their set at Glastonbury in 2023 drew one of the biggest crowds of the festival, and in 2024 it was released as a live album. Looking ahead, they'll be supporting Iron Maiden at Knebworth in 2026!

The HU show that heavy music really is a global language.

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

Hire Bradfield St Clare Village Hall for just £10 per hour!

Contact Val Nunn for bookings (details above)