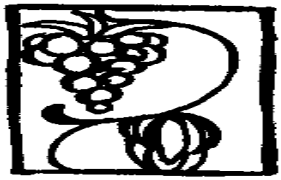
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



October 2024 No:229

We know, everyone is saying it - 'where has September gone? At time of writing the skies are grey and we've had more rain than we have seen in a long time. It doesn't seem five minutes since we published the clocks springing forward and here we are with a reminder that clocks **fall back** an hour at 2am on **Sunday 27 October 2024.** That's an extra hour in bed - or if you forget - it makes for quite a long day!

We offer congratulations and thanks to Clive and Sue Leal on their completion of the Historic Churches Bike Ride, so many miles - so many churches! A great read this month.

Friday 18 October is the date for the **Harvest Festival Service** in St Clare Church @ **6.30pm.** The service will be followed by refreshments of Cheese, Bread and Wine - we hope that you join in this uplifting service and stay to celebrate afterwards. Please note that there will **not** be an Evening Service on Sunday 20 October.

Closure of village hall for renovations

Renovations to the Village Hall start from **Monday 14 October 2024** meaning that there will not be any of the regular events happening until completion. Hopefully we will be able to furnish you with a Grand Opening date in the next edition of the Grapevine

Meeting to update on Anglian Water Pipe Works will now be held in December - date to be confirmed next month's Grapevine.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader,
We are now in Harvest season across our Churches in the Benefice, a time to come together to give thanks for all those who continually sow and reap crops. Farmers, vegetable growers, those who transport the produce, and those who sell it are at the heart of our thanksgiving, and we pray for them in what for some are very difficult times. Everyone is very welcome to join us for our harvest celebration at Bradfield St Clare on **Friday 18 October at 6.30pm.** This will be followed by lovely bread and cheese (and other delights!) in the church.

Whilst I'm thinking of giving thanks, we are going to holding a special benefice Service of Thanks on Advent Sunday (December 1st) at St Peter's in Cockfield for all those who contribute in any way to our churches across the benefice. We are always very grateful for the time, the talent and the money that people give to our church.

Over the past few years everyone has been squeezed by the rising prices which have come as a result of Covid-19 and global conflict. The church is not immune to this, and the bills that have to be paid i.e. electricity, insurance, maintenance of the building etc have risen considerably. I know that there are many calls on your money, and many worthwhile causes that benefit from your generosity. However, I would ask those of you who enjoy having this wonderful medieval building in the village, which is open every day and offers peace and sanctuary, as well as regular worship, weddings, baptisms and funerals will be able to respond to a letter that will come out very soon asking for financial contributions to help keep the bills paid.

Our congregations are small but dedicated, and want to help their communities, so I know that many of you will be generous and will want to help us at this time of need.
Yours in Christ,

Sharon
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - October 2024

Sunday 6 October Trinity 19	9.30am Communion at Stanningfield 11am Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion at Felsham
Wednesday 9 October	11am Holy Communion at Felsham Church followed by Soup/sandwiches at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 13 October Trinity 20/Harvest	10am Harvest Service at Cockfield 10.30am Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship for Harvest at Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 17 October	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall A friendship group for the over 65's, all welcome!
Friday 18 October	**6.30pm Harvest Service followed by harvest refreshments at Bradfield St Clare**
Sunday 20 October Trinity 21	9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving at Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together for Harvest at Felsham 10.30am Communion at Cockfield
Sunday 27 October All Saints Day	9.30am Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion at Gedding 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 3rd November Last after Trinity	9.30am Communion at Stanningfield 11am Communion at Bradfield St Clare 3pm All Souls Service at 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** or contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, tel: 01284 828599 or Rev Richard Stainer, Assistant Priest, richard.stainer14@gmail.com, tel: 01284 388175.*

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES FUND RAISING CYCLE RIDE

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024

At just after 9.30am Sue and I set off from home to do our bit to stop the old buildings falling down! We have taken part in this event for several years and always leave the church in our village until last. So, the first port of call was the Congregational chapel in Cockfield. It was an inauspicious and quite disappointing start. The door was locked and there was a chain across the gate. Visit noted, we moved on. Next stop was St Peters in Cockfield. By contrast there was a friendly greeting and refreshments on offer. A few minutes chat and we were on our way again.

From there we visited churches in Thorpe Morieux, Preston St Mary, Kettlebaston, Hitcham, Brettenham, Felsham, Gedding and on to the two churches in Rattlesden. Most were manned, but not all. The people we did meet were universally friendly and helpful.

Next was the formidable hill (to cyclists) up to Drinkstone. The church there was the stand-out of the day! Bananas, cakes, biscuits, sweets and drinks – lovely! Woolpit was next, followed by the least pleasant traffic situation of the day. Over the A14 and the roundabout at the foot of Elmswell hill. Safely negotiated. Then up the hill to the church. After that followed Tostock, Hessett, Beyton and Thurston. From there to Great Barton and then, via the Cattishall level- crossing into Bury St Edmunds.

In the town we visited Bury Baptist, Trinity church, Saint Johns/Salvation Army (doubled up), St Edmundsbury Cathedral, St Marys and the Roman Catholic church. Then out of town to

Nowton church, which stands at the end of a half-mile, all-uphill approach road. We had been going for over five hours by this point, so each hill grew horns!!

After that we sailed down the hill and along Hawstead Lane to the A134 at Sicklesmere. We were pleased to get off the A134 as soon as we could and so turned left opposite Sicklesmere Post Office and up what was the last significant climb of the day to Little Whelnetham church.

Then followed Rushbrooke, Rougham and Bradfield St George churches. We then took great pleasure in cycling through our own village of Bradfield St Clare and to the church we can see out of our kitchen window. Bliss!! We arrived there at 4.25pm to a warm welcome.

In all we were out just short of seven hours, covered a shade over 55 miles and visited 32 churches. Eleven of those were unmanned. We would say there were not as many cyclists in evidence around the county this year?

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored us.

Clive and Sue Leal

Plant and Produce Stall - Linden House

The stall has been supported both by donations to sell and people to buy. If you are passing stop and have a look - there may be something you need! This wouldn't be possible without the support of your contributions.
All proceeds from this support St Clare Church. £50 raised this month. Thank you

VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 17 October
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall
2-4pm
This month we will be holding a bring and buy sale, proceeds to a local charity.

Village Friends is an over 65's friendship group of men and women from various villages in the area who meet once a month

If you require transport please contact:
Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063
revsharon2@gmail.com or
Susan Metcalf 07925 867221 or st.metcalf@btinternet.com

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

Harvest Festival Service 18 October 2024

Please could anyone who has any flowers or greenery please leave it in the Church porch by THURSDAY 17 October (in the morning) so we can decorate for our service the following evening.

Thank you for your support.

News from Home Field



The last few weeks have been fruit picking season for us. Firstly we had a few conference pears which were picked whilst still firm and stored in a cool place to finish ripening. They remained very firm but started to shrivel up, so we decided to cook them up. The result was a very bland crumble with no pear flavour at all. There was a good crop of damson plums which were destined for the freezer. I brought them in and started to destone the plums - picking one of the juicier plums I offered it to Debbie, taking one bite she then confidently gave me the full Latin name of the pink wiggling grub inside, along with a few other words as well! In the end only half the plums made it to the freezer. The eating apples were good in parts - with the usual game of spot the wasp before you pick. The best apples were the ones that were ‘scrumped’ (which sounds more daring than “help yourself”. They seem to be keeping much better than our own, maybe because you only pick the better ones. Earlier in the month the wild blackberries looked in abundance and we picked a few pounds but after a dry spell they have all shrivelled up, so

no more fresh blackberry and Bramley apple pie until next year.

Nothing to report on the allotment really. We have harvested the butternut squash and pumpkins and have set them to cure. Carrots, a few beetroot and the odd cabbage are still available for the kitchen table. We did have a good harvest of sweetcorn in the end, before the crows found them. Another good result was the single honeydew melon grown in the poly tunnel. On a plant the length of two double decker buses we had one fruit, which was delicious.

On the sheep front, Lola and her twins have gone off to hopefully start a new flock. They have gone to a young lad who is hoping to pursue a career in agriculture. The idea is that Lola will be put to the ram this Autumn for spring lambs and her two ewe lambs will be put to the ram in Autumn 2025. This way he should experience all the sheep 'stuff' gradually with a small flock, and who knows in a few years time what his flock will be. Lola will return home when her 2025 lambs are weaned. I wish him well on his chosen path.

I have mown the wild flower meadow and cleared the grass off. There is a bit of a debate as to the title of this area. It is actually a bit more of a meadow with the odd flower in it. We will introduce more flowers but some of the grasses are stunning, it has to be a happy medium. I'm glad I cut the meadow before watching the Big Cat programme on television, who knows what I would have found up there!

Glyn

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When: Every Friday

Where: Bush Cottage @ 9.40am and Village Hall Car Park @ 9.50am

Parish Council - Date for your Diary

The Parish Council will be arranging a meeting for members of the team for the Anglian Water Pipeline Project, to come along sometime in December. **Date to be confirmed in next month's Grapevine.** They will give a presentation and this will be followed by a Q & A session. If villagers wish to come along and ask questions of the team then please do so.

In the meantime, if there are more urgent questions from villagers about the project, then please contact the parish clerk on bradfieldstclarepc@gmail.com or by telephone on 07817 170906, and she will forward those questions on to Anglian Water to get a response.

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Roasted Squash and Chickpea Soup

500g pack frozen or fresh Butternut Squash
Pinch chilli flakes
1 tbsp Olive Oil
25g pumpkin seeds
400ml can Reduced Fat Coconut Milk
500ml vegetable stock
400g can Chickpeas In Water, drained
Crusty bread, to serve (optional)

1.Preheat the oven to 200ºC, gas mark 6. Put the squash onto a baking tray with the chilli flakes and some seasoning, then toss in the oil to coat. Roast for 20-25 minutes, until tender.

2.Meanwhile, toast the pumpkin seeds for a couple of minutes, either in a dry frying pan or in the oven on another baking tray.

3.When the squash is almost ready, put the coconut milk, stock and chickpeas into a large saucepan and bring to the boil. Add the squash, cover and simmer for 5 minutes.

4.Blend the soup with a stick blender until smooth. Sprinkle with the toasted seeds, a pinch of chilli flakes and a drizzle of olive oil. Serve with crusty bread, if liked.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING …. THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everybody who attended, baked, donated and helped at our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday, 21st September. We had a fantastic turnout and the weather was beautiful. Thanks also to Malcolm and Gerard for allowing us the use of their garden and to Betty and Angela for once again doing a fantastic job organising the draw.

We raised over £500 on the day and there will be more to come once the monies for Pat's innovative Tea for Two packages and the Towns and Cities Quiz has been collected and counted. So watch out for the final amount in the November issue of The Grapevine.

As you may know our village hall refurbishment is due to commence on **14th October** so there will be no Kit Café opening this month and until further notice. We look forward to welcoming everyone back once the work has been completed so please watch this space and come and join us for the Grand Opening of our improved village hall.

KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

To enable the KIT cafe to keep running on a monthly basis we need more volunteers willing to help out.

Ideally we would have enough people on a rota so that each person is only needed a few times a year - the more people on the rota the less frequent you'll be asked to help. Without this extra help, we may have to open less frequently which would be a great shame as we feel it is a great asset to the community.

If you're happy to volunteer for the rota or are able to help set up the hall up on Friday afternoons, please speak to Val Nunn 01284 388830👍🙂

Thank you!

Halloween

Halloween's origins are rooted in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that the boundary between the living and dead was blurred at this time of year, and that the spirits of the dead could return to Earth

The Celts believed that the spirits of the dead would cause trouble and damage crops. They also believed that the spirits would make it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future



Bradfield Weather

August 2020	August 2021	August 2022	August 2023	August 2024
115 mm	16.5 mm	15.5 mm	66mm	13 mm
Sept 2020	**Sept 2021**	**Sept 2022**	**Sept 2023**	**Sept 2024**
42 mm	67 mm	42 mm	65 mm	41 mm

Last night I was woken up by what sounded like a monsoon in the early hours and mostly I thought - 'Good'. August was dry! Only 13mm of rain and (just in case you didn't memorise last month's missive) we'd only had 1mm of recorded rain in July after the 16th – so that's only 14mm in 6 ½ weeks. However, having returned from the North at the end of August where it was jeans and jumpers as the whole country suffered a cold snap it's been lovely to be back into shorts and a T-shirt for gardening and topping up the all important Vitamin D levels now that we're past the Autumn equinox.

Seasons are so important in the rhythm of life and although many of us mourn the passing of longer days than nights don't be disheartened! Think of cosy fires and crunchy leaves under foot. We're so blessed to benefit from the amazing East Anglian light at this time of year and it just keeps getting better as the sun's arc dips and the numerous spider webs on the lawns are brought into view.

And life begins again! It's interesting how quickly plants respond to different temperatures. A lot of annuals and biennials will naturally germinate at this time of year. There's a lovely annual called Orlaya grandiflora which is tricky to germinate in seed trays but out in the garden, after a cold snap like we had a couple of weeks ago they are popping up all over the place here. If you've had foxgloves in your gardens, look out for a myriad of tiny seedlings which have also responded to the quick chill and are now germinating – let them get a bit bigger and transplant them to where you'd like them to flower any time until Christmas (but you can get away with moving them after that too). Oh

dear – I've mentioned the C word. Time to stop. Alice Ward-Thomas (23/09/24)

The Library Van Dates 2024

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:

16 October	11 December
13 November	

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 2 October	Blue bin
Tuesday 8 October	Brown Bin
Wednesday 9 October	Black Bin
Wednesday 16 October	Blue Bin
Tuesday 22 October	Brown Bin
Wednesday 23 October	Black Bin
Wednesday 30 October	Blue Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



Village Hall Whist Drive

Several of our usual players were on holiday for our September Whist Drive and we only had two tables with the dummy taking the part of an eighth player. So it was decided to award first and second place cash prizes only.

The winners were:
1st Place: Vera (170)
2nd Place: Ean (162)
Wooden Spoon: Jim/Val (147)

Our next whist drive will be held on **Friday, 4th October** Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the halfway 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.**

Please note this will be our last whist drive before work begins on our village hall improvements. We will let everybody know once the hall is up and running again and whist drives can recommence.

For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

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New Editor (STILL) Needed

There's still that exciting opportunity for someone to volunteer to take on the Grapevine! Please feel free to contact Margaret or Debbie for a chat if you are interested.

To date we have not had anyone respond to our plea for an additional editor. In reality that means that we have two editions of our Village Magazine until its demise. It's still not too late to ask for details on what is involved from either Debbie or Margaret. A computer is provided and with a few basic computer skills you could be the new Editor alongside Margaret!
Contact details on the front page or stop us in the village!

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	Mrs Debbie Thomas - 01284 386302 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