THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



September 2024 No:228

By the time you get this, uniforms will have been bought, new haircuts had, and students ready to return to school. It seems that the very day that school starts the weather flicks into Autumn, a favourite season for many with the glorious colours of the trees and hedges, morning mists clearing into bright days (wistful and hopeful thinking!).

This month we congratulate Rosie and Richard on the completion of their Pembrokeshire Coastal Walk - what a fabulous read that is! A wonderful amount raised for Charity - hopefully happy memories for them too.

Yet again St Clare launches into a new month with so much going on! The Suffolk Historic Bike Ride is on **Saturday 14 September,** our Church benefits from this - so if you are able (and have a bike!), there is still time to contact Keith Payne to take part.

This is followed by a special BIG Macmillan Coffee morning Kit Cafe on **Saturday 21 September**. Recent Kit Cafe's have been well supported and if you haven't been before please consider coming to this one, get to meet your neighbours and others who return to our village for the Cafe.

Fling yourself into Autumn with the Benefice Barn Dance on **Saturday 28 September**, hope you have bought your ticket! They are limited now due to popular demand - so please check with Lorraine if you would still like to go and are ticket less (who needs a Taylor Swift concert!)

Save the Date - Friday 18 October Harvest Festival time tbc.
Tuesday 12 November @ 7pm - Meeting in Village Hall for update on Anglian Water Pipe Works

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Reader,
Last month I wrote about looking forward to the Olympic Games. I write this as they finish and I have to say I wasn't disappointed! I wasn't able to see everything of course, but what I did see was truly thrilling.

I know that sport isn't for everyone - but it really does lift my heart to see sporting activities where people of different nationalities, creeds and colour work alongside each other in peace and harmony - albeit with a competitive edge!

We have had a very successful holiday club in the benefice this summer, where children of different backgrounds and from different schools came together to play, create and learn about God's love, using the Olympic Games as a vehicle to thinking about their lives and faith. A piece of artwork that they made is hanging in St Peter's at Cockfield - do go along and have a look at it if you can. It was great to see them create this together, and to be tolerant with one another as they made it!

If only the whole world could practice the same tolerance. It would certainly be a much better place.

On another note, I was sad to hear that Bradfield Grapevine may be coming to an end, as no one has stepped up to take over the job of editing from Debbie Thomas. She has done an extremely good job (along with Margaret Lovick) and I know how much work goes into producing a village magazine. So thank you Debbie. I hope that by the time you are reading this someone may have volunteered to take over and this much appreciated monthly communication will not be lost.

Yours in Christ,

Sharon

revsharon2@gmail.com
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - September 2024

Sunday 1 September	Summer Lunch at Milton House, Cockfield
Sunday 1 September Trinity 14	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham
Saturday 7 September	'Open Garden' at Brokesbourne, Stanningfield Road, Gt Whelnetham, IP30 0TY 2-4pm. Free entry.
Wednesday 11 September	11am Communion - Felsham
Sunday 8 September Trinity 15	10.30am Communion & Farewell Service for Rev Helen Grover - Cockfield 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 15 September Trinity 16	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 21 September	Messy Church 3-5pm at The Hive, Bradfield St George All children welcome with their parents/carers
Sunday 22 September Trinity 17	9.30am Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George
Saturday 28 September	7-11pm. 'Benefice Barn Dance' at Bishop's Farm, Bradfield St Clare, IP30 0AW. Contact Lorraine Morley for tickets 07742 151667
Sunday 29 September Michael & All Angels/Harvest	8.30am Communion - Cockfield 11am Harvest Service - 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***

Fundraising for Cockfield Benefice

BENEFICE BARN DANCE

Raising money for all 9 churches within the Benefice.

Bring **cash** for raffle, bar & extra BBQ food.



Contact Lorraine Morley or church wardens for tickets.

BBQ AND PAY BAR

Music and dance direction from the **Deneside Ramblers**

Meat sourced from **Thurston Butchers**

Bar hosted by **Red House**, Stanningfield

Ticket includes 1 free visit to BBQ

TICKETS

ADULTS - £15

UP TO YR6 - £10

UNDER 5 - FREE

Bishops Farm, Bradfield St Clare, IP30 0AW

28 SEP

7 PM TO 11 PM

CONTACT LORRAINE MORLEY FOR TICKETS

07742151667 / logmorley@yahoo.co.uk

BENEFICE BARN DANCE

TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT ARE NOW VERY LIMITED CONTACT LORRAINE (07742151667) FOR AVAILABILITY IF YOU ARE STILL INTERESTED.

There are **no card facilities** for this event, it is cash only for raffle tickets, bar and second helpings of the BBQ!

Parking will be sign posted at **Hagglesdon House** with accessible parking at **Bishops Farm**.

RAFFLE PRIZES WELCOME - Please leave with Lorraine at Bishops Farm prior to the event.

Contributions of gift bags (can be used but in good condition please) and items to help us make up gift bag raffle prizes so,for example bathroom bits, kitchen bits, gardening, Pets, alcohol, chocolate, grocery etc.., OR Vouchers, would be gratefully received.

Any contributions great or small would support this cause.

Thank you.

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. Contact details on front page or stop us in the village!

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The annual Ride and Stride is held on the second Saturday in September, which this year falls on the 14th – which sounds like ideal cycling weather!

Our faithful four have given wonderful service in recent years, but this time around have some problems due to the date, so it would be nice if we could have a couple – or more – newcomers this year although the four are hoping to find a way.

For those not familiar with Ride and Stride, the idea is to cycle or walk to any number of churches in Suffolk, getting sponsorship on the basis of so much per church, or per mile covered – or more usually nowadays a flat fee.

Of the sponsorship money raised, half goes to the church for which you are riding and the other half to the Trust, who offer grants to Suffolk's many ancient churches requiring money for repairs or improvements such as disabled access or toilets.

Churches are usually manned, so a warm welcome and refreshments can be expected at those visited.

The event takes place between 9am to 5pm on 14th September. If you are interested, further details can be obtained by contacting 01284 386169.

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. £100 raised this month. Thank you

VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 19 September
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

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When: Every Friday

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



Bishops Farm Harvest 2024

Now it's nearing completion, It's safe to say harvest 2024 has been reasonably straightforward. Crops were harvested in the order that was to be expected, starting with the winter barley in late July, wheat early August, spring barley Mid-august and peas as we head towards bank holiday weekend. The weather has played ball giving us a good long spell to get the crops cut, straw baled and removed and even start some cultivations. We've planted 18ha's of cover crops and 5ha's of next year's silage grass also in-between combining and straw carting.

The combine has had a few issues this year with breakdowns causing Mike more hassle than in previous years; and yields across all crops are around 20% down on our 5-year average. This is not surprising given the sheer volume of rain and wet conditions we had from October through to May this growing year and we've recorded over 100 hours less sunshine this spring than in a normal year. So, very wet feet and lack of sunshine has driven the underperformance in crop yields. But that's farming! Last year we had record breaking crops around 25% up on 5-year average, so we can't win them all every year.

My agronomy and input spend this year had been adjusted for a reduced expected yield as it was defined early in the season that the potential would not be fulfilled this year. PGR's (plant growth regulators) were down around 40%, fungicides back by around

25% and herbicide spend around 10% down also. Nitrogen we've trimmed over the years to a level we are comfortable with having muck and digestate in rotation; and Nitrogen isn't the full answer in my opinion which was proved by the same amount used in the last 2 years on wheat produced 12t/ha one year and 8t/ha the second so other factors are clearly to play than piling on more nitrogen which was the industry trend through the 90's and early 2000's.

Young Sam from Little Whelnetham has helped cart and cultivate this summer, significantly easing the work load from me as I've enjoyed some time with my wife Ali and Emily our 7-month-old daughter when not working my full-time job at Corteva. Having Emily has been a realisation that time is precious and life is not all about work. We are so fortunate to be able to raise Emily here on a Family farm; and I hope the next generation will grow to love this place as much as the existing 2 generations do. To have 3 generations of Morley's and Rouse's on the farm at one time is a really special period in the history of Bishops Farm and I'm sure Emily and her cousins will continue our story here well into the future. There's a lot of childhood intrigue, smiles and giggles about the place nowadays lifting everybody's spirits away from the day-to-day stresses of the farm business.

With crop yields back from average the beef enterprise has been vital for diversity and income stream. Although weight gains in the field this season have been slow, not relying solely on crop income will help through this financial year. In between harvest work we've extended our straw shed to help store straw dry over winter, the crop sprayer has passed its MOT again and we have 4 new ducks joining the flock on the pond hatched by Lorraine and adored by baby Emily.

Tom - Dairy Farmhouse.

Parish Council - Date for your Diary

The Parish Council have arranged for members of the team for the Anglian Water Pipeline Project, to come along to the Village Hall on **Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 7pm**. 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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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2024

11 AM – 1 PM

BRADFIELD ST CLARE VILLAGE HALL

Stalls, Games and competitions

Prize Draw

Kit Café are, once again, proud to host this year's Macmillan Coffee morning.

No entry fee but for a small donation you can enjoy endless cups of tea, coffee, soft drinks and delicious home-made scones and biscuits. Please make a note in your diaries and come along if you can to support this worthy cause. You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

We are in need of cakes, plants, books or other home produce for our stalls. We would be grateful to anyone who can donate a prize for the draw. Offers of help to man one of our stalls are also needed.

Our small community in Bradfield St Clare have always been great supporters of the Macmillan Coffee Mornings ever since Margaret Lovick first began hosting them over 17 years ago. So let's keep the tradition going and make 2024 another success!

All money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support

for further information or offers of help please contact Val on 07483245825



Bradfield Weather

July 2020	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024
46.5mm	61.5mm	2.5mm	72.5 mm	86 mm
August 2020	**August 2021**	**August 2022**	**August 2023**	**August 2024**
115 mm	16.5 mm	15.5 mm	66mm	Not much!

Our 30yr average for July rain is 51 mm so this July counts as a wet month BUT most of that all fell in the first week of July and there was only 1mm recorded after the 16th. I'm currently in Northumberland as I write, so I'm not sure what has been measured at home for August but what I do know is that I was watering vegetables a lot, there were deep cracks in the soil in our perennial garden and I was longing for a good dousing before we came north! However, we've had some wonderful sunshine, Cambridge was recorded as the hottest place in the country on the 'glorious' 12th with 34.8C (not much grouse shooting in Cambridge but glorious in many other ways) and I'm not ready for summer to end yet.

The 12th also saw the peak of the annual Perseid meteor shower – who made a wish upon a falling star? Weather comes from the Heavens so bear with my extremely tenuous inclusion in the following but it blew my mind a bit. There was an astronomy talk here in Northumberland last night – sadly the skies were cloudy (plenty of rain up here!) so we didn't get to look through the big telescope. Instead we were given a presentation and held pieces of meteors. A few years ago the Hubble Telescope was pointed at a patch of 'dark space' within what most of us know as The Plough. The exposure was left open for 5 days. When the astronomers looked at what they'd recorded they noted in the region of 15,000 dots of light. Of which they estimated that 12,000 of these dots were different galaxies containing an uncountable number of planets. How big was the area of space at which they were looking? Next time you're on the beach, pick up a grain of sand and hold it at arm's length up to the sky. That's more or less the size of the bit they were looking at.I'm going to stop worrying about the little things in life (and quite a few of the big ones).Alice Ward-Thomas 19th August



We completed the Pembrokeshire coastal path!

It was much more difficult than we imagined and we were very naïve thinking we could carry all our camping gear. The bags were too heavy up and down the constant steep hills, especially in the heat. So we changed plans and decided instead to stay at B&Bs or hotels along the route, leaving the majority of the bag weight behind on the second day. That added a new challenge of trying to find somewhere to stay each night at short notice, which proved difficult and stressful at times! We also had to re-plan our walking route so that we still covered enough miles each day but could stop somewhere close to a B&B or at least a road to get picked up. Funnily enough, a lot of the coastal path is actually along the coast and not conveniently located next to public transport! Luckily Richard has family in South Pembrokeshire who very kindly shuttled us from the path to our nightly stops when needed, and we used the coastal bus when we could.

After we'd lightened our bags (which still had a fair bit in – first aid kits, 4 litres of water, food for the next couple of days, newspaper for soggy shoes, a spare change of clothes…) we got into a routine. Get up, get ready, have our vitamin drink, pack everything back in our bags, check out of the hotel, put the location tracker on and start walking! They were long days – often we'd be walking for over 8 hours each day. The

mornings went quick but the afternoons were when we would start to struggle, the last few miles seemed to take a lifetime. The soles of our feet were so painful from the constant walking, and towards the end of the day every step took so much effort.

Even though we didn't have enough time to explore as much as we'd have liked, there was a lot to see along the path. A lot of 'wild' horses, a cinnabar moth, lizards, seals, a tiny frog, lots of cows and bulls - some of which had roamed onto the path and we had to gingerly walk past them between the fence and the cliff edge! Later that same day we saw two bulls noisily and aggressively fighting each other, luckily from a safer distance and in a fenced field.

We came across a lamb which had got its head stuck in a fence, and along with another couple we managed to carefully loosen the fence wire to free it. The lamb wriggled out, ran straight to its mum in the field who gave it a very brief glance before carrying on eating. So caring!

I was surprised by the number of plants along the path; there was a lot of honeysuckle, purple foxgloves and purple heather. The landscape changed as we walked from north to south. The north had dramatic cliffs, steep climbs up and down (and then up and down again, and again!), and was remote with very few other people - this was ideal for emergency wee stops! As we got to the south section it got a little flatter with sandy beaches, places to stop just off the path for drinks and food, and more people to talk to along the path. Throughout the hike there were lots of interesting coves cut into the cliffs, relaxing waterfalls, deserted beaches and busy beaches, ruins of old buildings including a mill, forts and churches, quaint little harbours with boats

bobbing on the water. Our only regret from the hike is that we didn't have time to stay longer and explore.

We planned the hike so that our last day was a nice short 7 miles into Amroth. There were still some steep hills but as we finally arrived at the finishing point on our 14th day of walking, we had a welcoming party of family to greet us which was lovely. After taking photos at the finishing plaque we weren't quite sure what to do with ourselves, so we celebrated with a cup of tea!

Total distance walked: 194 miles (312 km)

Total time: 14 days

Weirdest piece of advice received: Use a tennis ball to massage feet (this was amazing – I'd recommend it!)

Worst part: Soggy feet day. After a heavy rainfall and walking through wet undergrowth, our socks were drenched and we could wring out the water. We had to stop regularly to dry our feet out, which was difficult in the rain!

Best part: The striking landscape (especially in the north). Reading about the history of the area on plaques dotted throughout the coastal path. Being outside in nature for the majority of the day. Struggling up a really steep hill and then being rewarded with cliff views and a waterfall.

Total raised for Macmillan: £3,130.02 plus £715.75 Gift Aid

This would pay for a Macmillan nurse for 108 hours, or for a Macmillan Information and Support Assistant for 5 weeks, or for 18 Macmillan grants to help those living with cancer.Thank you so much to everyone who has donated - **Rosie and Richard**

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:

28 September	13 November
16 October	11 December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 4 September	Blue bin
Tuesday 10 September	Brown Bin
Wednesday 11 September	Black Bin
Wednesday 18 September	Blue Bin
Tuesday 24 September	Brown Bin
Wednesday 25 September	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



Village Hall Whist Drive

WHIST DRIVE

Our next whist drive will be held on **Friday, 6th September** in the village hall.

If you like playing cards please consider coming along. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the half way stage. Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month. 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.**

For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

Nurse Perry's Afghans

6oz butter or Margerine
3oz Soft Brown Sugar
3oz Cornflakes
5oz Self Raising Flour
1 tsp coffee powder

Cream fat and sugar, add coffee powder, add flour and cornflakes. Place in small heaps on a baking tray - flatten slightly. Cook for 20mins at 160 degrees. When cool top with coffee icing, walnuts or cherries. (Nurse Perry was a midwife in 1948-1954)

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SEPTEMBER

September was the seventh month of the Roman calendar until Julius Caesar ordered a calendar consisting of twelve months based on a solar year in 45 BC. The Anglo Saxons called it 'gerst monath' meaning Barley month.

Feast Days: 21st September - St Mathew; 29th September - St Michael or Michaelmas Day.

Mottoes: "Fair on September 1st, fair for the month"

"September blows soft, til the fruits in the loft"; "September dries up wells, or breaks down bridges.

Charity Quiz held on

Friday 16 August 2024
Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

Update on last month's quiz!

A very well attended evening raised £266 -a huge thank you to all participants for their generous donations and contributions for the raffle.

Charity Nominated for August was Cancer Research UK.

The next quiz will be in November - date to be confirmed in next month's Grapevine and will be for our Church and Village Hall Funds.

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. More details on the Service in next month's Grapevine. Thank you for your support.

This month there was a page to spare …..as one of the editors I pondered long and hard what I could offer to the magazine a) to fill a space and b) may be of interest to some of you. As it happens this month's Grapevine is so full of informative reading it feels a little daunting to 'fill' the extra page with a personal reflection. I'm talking other peoples garden's - I just love them - big or small….country houses or friends or neighbours, I glean new knowledge and joy from every single one! Obviously, I can't say to you all to pop into so-and-so's garden and look at their amazing hydrangea or fuchsia!! but I can tell you of my experience at one of our local gardens that is open to the public.

A regular haunt is Fullers Mill, situated on the River Lark near West Stow. This garden needs visiting in each of the seasons! It is now run by a charity, Perennial…it costs £7 to visit (although I pay £35/pa and that entitles me to visit with a plus one as many times a year as I like…and I like!). It's a tranquil site set off the main road, once a private garden created by Bernard Tickner MBE, who took it from scrubland to the beautiful garden it is today. What I love is the fact that all the planting is 'ordinary' - you or I could recreate something similar in our own space. It is fairly accessible, although some parts have sloping ground and some uneven surfaces, with plenty of seating dotted around to just sit and reflect. There is a small tea and cake facility which is the best cup of tea and piece of cake I've had all year and at a reasonable price. Opening is from 1st April - 29th October, Wednesday 2pm-5pm and Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11am to 5pm.

In contrast, I'm off to the Audley End on 1st September to the Gardeners World Exhibition - included in the entrance fee is the option of visiting the House gardens too! Can't wait!

I've just realised that I only have one page to fill and I could go on forever - is there a special garden that you've been to that you could recommend to us?

Debbie

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