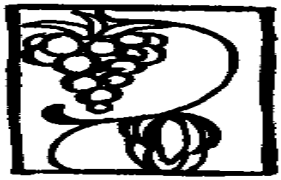
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



September 2025 No:239

Dear Neighbours,

September has arrived, and with it comes a new issue full of updates and reflections from a busy summer. Inside you'll find round-ups of several recent events, with details of how much was raised and the difference these occasions make to our community.

Looking ahead, the Harvest Festival Service will take place at Bishop's Farm on Friday 26th September. Everyone is warmly invited to come along. If you're planning to attend please let Lorraine know.

Alongside that, you'll find all the regular favourites - from KIT Café dates to parish updates and a mix of articles to enjoy.

A big thank you once again to all who contribute and support the Grapevine. We hope you enjoy this edition and find plenty to interest you as we move into the early days of autumn.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

We are rapidly approaching my favourite time of the year – Autumn. Autumn? Yes, Autumn. Now don't get me wrong, I love all the seasons in turn, but Autumn has a special place in my heart. I am not a great lover of the heat and so don't find summer (in particular, this summer!) much of a joy. Autumn brings the promise of cooling temperatures and even log fires. This is the time to put the garden to rest for the winter. A time of, perhaps, some late fruits to stew or make into jam. Autumn is the time for getting ready to hunker down for the coming winter. I also love the autumn colours and that particular autumn smell that woodlands give off. In the church we are celebrating the harvest with our local farmers and that is always an enjoyable time.

I also rather subscribe to the Danish idea of hygge; a sense of cosiness and conviviality around the fire, perhaps with a cup of tea and a piece of cake, or crumpets oozing with butter.

Do you enjoy a cuppa? You are not alone! Yet, despite tea being the most popular drink worldwide, after water, with over 100 million cups being drunk daily in the UK, the people who grow and pick our tea are facing, low wages, unsafe working conditions and the growing impact of climate change. Our cup of tea comes at a cost for those who produce it for us and that's just not fair.

Tea production supports 13 million people worldwide and therefore has the potential to improve the lives of so many if changes are made to pay and working conditions. That is why the Fairtrade Foundation is putting tea at the centre of its campaigning during Fairtrade Fortnight which runs from the 22nd September to the 5th October. Over these two weeks the Fairtrade Foundation is calling on all of us to encourage the UK government and businesses to take stronger steps towards fairer pay, better working conditions and climate resilience for tea workers. We can all do our bit by signing the Brew it Fair petition on the Fairtrade Foundation website at https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/do-it-fair/

However, if campaigning is not for you then you can take an important step by simply buying Fairtrade tea. It is freely available in most supermarkets in both caffeinated and decaffeinated forms. Buying Fairtrade tea can make a real difference to producers around the world.

The Christian faith teaches us that justice and fairness is what our God wants from us and buying Fairtrade products is one way we can put our faith into action. Whatever you are doing this September, enjoy it, and, of course, we'd love to see you at any of our services across the benefice.

yours in Christ, Rev Richard Stainer, richard.stainer14@gmail.com, 01284 388175
Cockfield website: www.cockfieldbenefice.com

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - September 2025

Saturday 6 September	2-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome!
Sunday 7 September Trinity 12	9.30am Holy Communion at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion at St Peter, Felsham
Tuesday 9 September	11am Holy Communion at Felsham, St Peter followed by sandwiches and coffee.
Saturday 13 September	Messy Church - for all children (must be accompanied by an adult) 3-5pm (contact Sharon for venue)
Saturday 13 September	Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride and Stride - Churches in the benefice are all open for visitors
Sunday 14 September Trinity 13	10am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 21 September Trinity 14	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at St Peter, Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion at St Peter, Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Friday 26 September	6pm Harvest Thanksgiving at Bishops Farm, Bradfield St Clare, IP30 0PW
Saturday 27 September	Cockfield Benefice presents Hugh Morrison, author of the Rev Shaw mysteries at Cockfield Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm. £15 a ticket including a glass of wine and nibbles. Visit www.eventbrite.com for more details.
Sunday 28 September Trinity 15	9.30am Holy Communion at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together 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 18 September
2-4pm
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month we will be playing bingo!

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:

Saturday, 20th September 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.

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

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

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

Village Hall Whist Drive



Our next whist drive will be held on
Friday, 5 th September

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 we had another tie between Justine and Shirley.

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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News from Homefield

Firstly, I'll finish my lambing report for the year. Lola lambed on 28th June and gave birth to triplets, where she hid them, I don't really know, she's not the biggest of sheep. Sadly, we lost the smallest one after three days, despite giving it a bottle of milk twice a day and feeding it off mum as well. This gives us seven lambs from five ewes, which is not brilliant but it's seven we didn't have at the end of April. The sheep have now all been moved down to the front field where there is a bit more grass. A bit more is no exaggeration, without the rain there is no regrowth but the lambs are all growing well.

All the potatoes have now been harvested and put into hessian sacks in the container. The yield was probably 50% down but they had no watering at all. Marfona beat the Charlotte's on yield and size of tuber. The sweet peas have been pulled out and another crop of dwarf beans have been drilled in their place. We have had two crops elsewhere, in the allotment, which have done well this year so we're hoping for a third crop, again with no additional watering.

The sweetcorn is now ready for harvesting and with all the sunshine, has grown well. The cobs are big and so far fully kernelled (not sure that's a word but I know what I mean). There are a few lettuce ready but as ever they are playing who's the tallest and bolting within a couple of days. Rather than drill a whole row and then singling out I have been sowing a few seeds at a time. When they are big enough, transplanted out and it seems to be working well. Next job is to refine the planting to one ready lettuce every 2-3 days. The runner beans are now starting to produce and there are a lot of flowers to keep a productive flow. Sunflowers are now making a show around the allotment, several being over 11ft tall (GT verified). We have a tallest sunflower competition with our two daughters. I drill the seed, usually directly into the allotment, then when the plants are ready, I dig up two or three, pot them up and hand them to the girls. I don't know what the girls do but yet again I have been accused of selecting dwarf sunflowers for them! A three foot tall sunflower is ample for their small gardens and it's not the winning but the taking part. One of the pots apparently turned into a tomato plant, funny things happen “over the border”.

The marrows, courgettes and pumpkins just keep coming at the moment. On the For Sale board they all go down as squashes to save chalk and spelling. This is a new word for me, a “squash” used to mean how many people you could safely get into my first mini for a trip to Felixstowe.

Glyn

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QUIZ NIGHT IN THE VILLAGE HALL
22ND August 2025

First of all a very big "Thank You" to those good people from our village and beyond who came to the quiz on Friday evening. The attendance was a little lower than previously due to the holiday season still being in full swing. Those who did come along had an enjoyable, if a little taxing, time. The competition was closer than we have ever seen before with the top four teams being within a couple of points.

Donations, and the raffle, raised a magnificent £253.00!!

This will be divided equally between Prostate Cancer UK and Cancer Research UK.

Thankyou, once again for your generous support.

Clive and Sue Leal

Isobel Payne will host a quiz in November in aid of the Hedgehog Hospital. Details nearer the time in the Grapevine.

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

Bradfield St. Clare Village Hall Refurbishment Fund Raising Event: An Evening With Charles Garland. Friday 25 th July 2025

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those that helped make the above event such a success. We are particularly grateful to those who are not on the Village Hall Committee who gave their time, made refreshments, gave donations and draw prizes and purchased tickets for the event which resulted in the sum of £687 being raised. It was particularly pleasing to see people from surrounding villages also supporting the event.

Having lived in this village for over 50 years I have noted that the percentage of people living in the village attending village events has dropped especially in the last 10 years. We tend to see the same people at events with many of them living outside the parish but still enjoy connections with the village. The village newsletter, the Grapevine, is posted to every property within the village so everybody is made aware of what is going on at the church, the KIT cafe, the monthly whist drive and other useful information such as when the bins will be emptied, when the library van will be visiting as well as learning from adverts that fresh fish is available on a Friday. It would be nice to see more people living in the village attending the next KIT cafe and the whist drive which takes place on the 1st Friday of the month. Also, can I remind you all that the Village Hall is available for hire and when the kitchen refurbishment is finished it will be an excellent venue for say family celebrations. All the information is published in the Grapevine. Perhaps there are types of event that you would like to take place in the Village Hall that you would be interested in. Let us know by contacting people mentioned in the Grapevine.

Gerry Bullard on behalf of the Village Hall Committee.

Garage Sale - A huge thank you

Thanks to all for your help and support, we made very nearly £400 (£378) at our garage sale last weekend, amazing. It is not too late to donate to ‘Save the children's’ vital work with babies and young children in Gaza - now designated a ‘Famine Zone’ a desperate situation, absolutely appalling, unbelievable. But sadly children are dying of malnutrition and starvation, we’ve all seen it on TV. If you haven't already done so there is still time to donate either to me, Pat Hipwell, at St Clare Cottage, 01284 386636 or direct to S.T.C.

I disposed of a great deal of surplus, but I shall from time to time put a few things outside the Cottage - please help yourselves!









WANTED!

Several strong, virile young ‘Knights in shining armour’ on white chargers (not essential!) to help clear up an area of the garden and to dig some holes (hardly the equivalent of rescuing a maiden in distress, sorry!)

I have some laurel bushes to plant as a hedge. I'm afraid it'll be quite hard work as the ground is very compact, dry and crisscross with conifer roots - so sharp spades are needed. I shall have to water, but hopefully it might rain before then? You can always hope. We have some good soil/compost to plant in. Reward for your selfless hard work? Copious quantities of tea, coffee and biscuits and maybe a beer? The satisfaction of a job well done and my undying gratitude.

Convene at St Clare Cottage, Saturday 6th September, 10 am? But you could just pop in any time and dig a hole! Thank you in advance.

Pat Hipwell

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Bradfield Weather

July 2021	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024	July 2025
61.5mm	2.5mm	72.5 mm	86 mm	48 mm
Aug 2021	**Aug 2022**	**Aug 2023**	**Aug 2024**	**Aug 2025**
16.5 mm	15.5 mm	66mm	13 mm	22mm to 26th

I'm currently away and it's a bit hard to know what to say about the weather. I'm bored of telling you all that we need rain because you already know that! Our July average is actually 53 mm of rain (32 yr average) but the past 10 years it has been 46mm, although the past 5 yrs have been wetter than that (see table above). This year has reminded me of 2022 but it hasn't been quite as scorched. The bit of rain we had last month enabled a small flush of grass, so the meadows don't look quite so African tundra.

The drought is taking its toll on trees – we've sadly lost a couple of young ones having failed to water them sufficiently, and many are already taking on autumn hues as they go into self-preservation mode. We are often urged to plant more trees. If you are able to do so, try and source trees as young as possible and water them whilst they establish over the first couple of years (if summers are dry). A tree, planted young, will almost always outgrow a larger, pot grown tree within a few years and will have a healthier root system which will put it in good stead for its whole life.

I'm already looking to next year in terms of gardening – here's hoping it's an easier one to deal with. I shall be planting fewer pots and focussing on drought tolerant plants (which will guarantee a wet summer!)

Alice Ward-Thomas (27 th Aug)

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 17 September	Wednesday 12 November
Wednesday 15 October	Wednesday 10 December

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 3 September	Blue Bin
Tuesday 9 September	Brown Bin
Wednesday 10 September	Black Bin
Wednesday 17 September	Blue Bin
Tuesday 23 September	Brown Bin
Wednesday 24 September	Black Bin

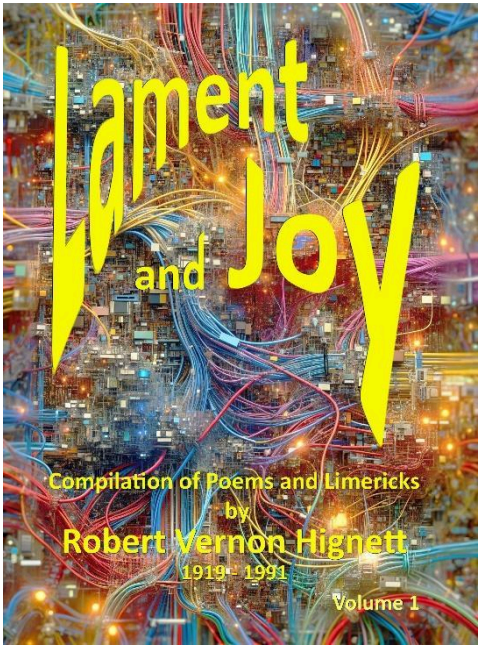
www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

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.*



Lament and Joy – A Tribute in Poetry

A new eBook by local resident Malcolm Hignett, Lament and Joy brings to light the heartfelt and humorous poems of his late father, **Robert Vernon Hignett (1919–1991)**.

From tender love poems and wistful reflections to quirky limericks and playful tales, this evocatively illustrated collection celebrates one man's hidden world – discovered after his passing and brought to publication only now, thanks to new creative tools and the passage of time.

Poignant, playful, and deeply personal, Lament and Joy is a moving tribute to love, memory, and the enduring power of poetry.

eBook available now on Amazon Kindle:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0F9VLWJTK

BRADFIELD ST CLARE

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

FOLLOWED BY BREAD, CHEESE & WINE

Collection split between **St Clare Church & Farming Community Network**



Food donations welcome for Bury St Edmunds Food Bank

Please let Lorraine know if you are coming
07742151667

SEP | 26 | 2025

6:30PM

HELD AT BISHOPS FARM, PITCHERS GREEN, BRADFIELD ST CLARE

Hello from St.Clare Church,

We hope you are all enjoying the summer months, especially those on School holidays and good wishes to all those who have received GCSE or 'A' level results, good luck with your next chapter. Good luck too, to those just starting out in education, wishing you lots of adventures on the way!

Welcome all new comers to the Village of Bradfield St.Clare.

A huge Thankyou to those who have provided flowers monthly to decorate our beautiful Church, they are always greatly admired. We continue to hold Communion Services on 2nd Sunday of each month at 11.00am and Evening Service at 6pm the following week (3rd Sunday). We have been praying for Growth throughout the Benefice and St.Clare has welcomed visitors to our services with slightly increased attendance numbers. Great news 😀.

Refreshments are served following the morning service where people can socialise and get to know the Church family better. We are all there for each other.

Sunday 31st August St.Clare will be holding the Benefice Communion at 10.30am. When there are 5 Sundays in a month just the Benefice Communion is held to draw the Benefice together and it's our pleasure to see as many of you as possible at this Service.

Please also note Bishops Farm, Pitchers Green, IP30 0AW is hosting this year's Harvest Festival to which everyone is welcome. It is Friday 26th September at 6.30pm, followed by Cheese, bread and wine. Please let Lorraine know if you'd like to join us for seating and refreshments arrangements. Monetary collection will be shared between St.Clare and Farming Community Network. And food donations will be passed on to The Bury Foodbank. Look forward to seeing you there.

Another date to remember is Saturday 13th September - The Annual Suffolk Bike and Stride event. St.Clare will be welcoming all those partaking of this fundraiser, at The Church with Refreshments and encouraging words.

Please visit your Church for quiet reflection or to join any of our services.

Written on behalf of Church Wardens Margaret Lovick and Lorraine Morley.

Lee Jardine
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Now playing…

Saxon – *Hell, Fire and Damnation*



Saxon have been flying the heavy metal flag since 1977, and almost fifty years later they're showing no signs of slowing down. Their 24th studio album, *Hell, Fire and Damnation*, landed on 19 January 2024—and it's proof that these pioneers of the *New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWoBHM)* still pack a mighty punch.

Don't be put off by the title - lead singer Biff's Dad, a proud Yorkshireman, used to exclaim this whenever he did something like hit his thumb with a hammer, and the memory inspired Biff to use it as an album title!

As always, Saxon excel at storytelling through song. The title track is a blazing clash of good and evil, while "Madame Guillotine" takes you straight into the French Revolution with one of the catchiest choruses they've written in years. "1066" brings the Battle of Hastings to life, and "Witches of Salem" revisits darker moments of history with grit and drama. If you like your history delivered with thundering riffs, *1066* is a perfect place to dive in.

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)