

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



February 2022 No: 200

Happy New Year!

Gosh, Christmas seems a long time ago - we hope that for everyone it was a lovely, safe time with those you care about. We start the new year with our **200th** edition of the Grapevine!! Wow...does John Parsons know what he started!!

This edition is full of reflections and thank yous as we start to look forward to the new year. Please, if you are able to, support the Litter Pick on **Saturday 5 March**. As frustrating as it is that it needs to be done at all, the atmosphere and camaraderie is so typical of the generosity of this village, not only in financial support but in giving up their time.

The Village Hall Committee is also in the process of planning an event to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. Mike and Lorraine Morley have kindly volunteered the use of their large barn to hold it in - planning is in the early stages, exact date, time and format to be confirmed - watch this space!!

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Message from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

On 20th February 2012 I was inducted and installed as the Rector of the Cockfield Benefice. I can't quite believe that 10 years have passed since that occasion. The adage is quite true - how time flies when you're having fun!

I certainly have had a lot of fun in the parishes that I came to be part of - and I'm still having fun, thanks to all those I live and work alongside; and I'm sure I will continue to do so!

Today in our morning service bible reading we heard of the joyous occasion at a wedding in Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle. If he hadn't turned the water into wine, then the party would have probably been rather disastrous. But Mary, Jesus' mother knew that her Son would be able to do something about the wine running out - even though Jesus protested that the timing wasn't quite right. Sometimes a mother knows best!

Today we are quite sceptical about miracles - but I believe that we see miracles every day. The miracle of growth as we begin to see green shoots appear as Spring draws near. The miracle of a new-born baby. The miracle of the seasons changing and the nights growing shorter at this time of the year. We've also had the miracle of a vaccine which has helped to protect us against life-threatening illness if we contract COVID. God is at work in all that is ordinary, making it extra-ordinary, life is a miracle, it is precious, let us savour it and enjoy it.

Yours in Christ,

Sharon

Revd Canon Sharon Potter

revsharon2@gmail.com

01284-828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – February 2022

Sunday 6 February	9.30am Morning Prayer CW - Stanningfield
4th before Lent	10am Communion CW - Bradfield St George 10am Morning Prayer CW – Cockfield 6pm SixtoSeven – Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 13 February 3rd before Lent	8am Communion BCP – Cockfield 10am Morning Prayer BCP – Gedding 10am Communion CW – Bradfield St Clare 4pm Healing Service – Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 20 February 2nd before Lent	9.30am Communion CW – Stanningfield 10am Communion CW – Cockfield 10am Family Worship – Felsham 4pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 27 Feb Next before Lent	9.30am Communion – Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George 10am Communion BCP - Gedding

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am
A prayer group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom. For more details contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter at revsharon2@gmail.com or phone 01284 828599 or 07825-086063



Churchwarden's report

It seems like only yesterday that we were busy planning Christmas services and now here we are at the end of January. Soon time to think about Easter! First though, a report full of thank-yous.

What lovely Christmas services they were. We began with our carol service on 12th December, taken by Reverend Mark and ably assisted by Santiago Masters from Elm Green, who lit the Advent candle. The church was beautifully decorated - a big thank you to our flower (and holly and ivy) arrangers. Our thanks to Mark for a lovely service and to all our readers.

On Christmas Eve afternoon we hosted the Benefice Crib Service. The church was full and it was a real pleasure to see so many children there. Children and adults alike, we sang, oohed, aahed, baahed, neighed and stamped our way through the service, led by Reverend Helen and encouraged by Olivia Thompson. Our thanks to Helen for such a lively and enjoyable service. And special thanks to Olivia, who was a splendid, confident narrator and to Enrique Masters who read the lesson beautifully.

The service was followed by refreshments, designed to appeal to the children, but apparently equally attractive to the adults! All in all it was a splendid way to start Christmas.

A Happy New Year to everyone and we look forward to seeing you in church soon.

Flower Rota 2022

Lorraine Morley is putting together the Flower Rota for the coming year. If you have a preferred weekend to do or, equally a time when you know you are unavailable please contact Lorraine. New arrangers are always welcome and, likewise if you feel you have done your turn and wish to retire please could you also let Lorraine know (01283 386270). The season will start with an '*all welcome to decorate the Church*' at Easter.

“The way I See It”

The two slightly tongue in cheek articles I wrote in the November and December Grapevine seem to have hit the spot for many people - fundraising was amazing.

I sold out of marmalade - all 26lbs of it in a couple of weeks, Christmas Puddings went equally fast and the food bank was well supported. We managed to send to CRISIS to support two places (letter from CRISIS on Village Notice Board) and we added £35 to the church's donation to the Bury Drop-In night shelter -so well done everyone - Thank you.

My idea of a Thank You Village Christmas Tree was met with enthusiastic comments - it certainly added to the lighting up of the Village - very festive and bright - many thanks to the Gahagan's for the use of their garden - but most thanks to Gerry Bullard, John and Doreen and friends who helped erect it, decorate it and keep the lights functioning - in the end I actually did nothing but buy the tree - so thank you Santa's Little Helpers. I am so lucky to live in such a supportive, helpful community - Happy New Year everyone - Pat.

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Bradfield St Clare Village Hall Committee

Village Hall - Whist Drive

Whist Drives are held on the first Friday of each month in the village hall starting at 7 pm.

After finally getting together to play whist again on Friday 3 December, we sadly took the difficult decision to cancel the January whist drive due to the rise of Covid infections. The **good** news is that the situation has improved enough for us to look forward to the next whist drive on

Friday 4 February at 7pm. So if you enjoy playing whist please think about joining us. Entry is £2 only and all entry money is given out in prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and booby. There will also be a prize draw with proceeds going towards the upkeep of our village hall. Donations of draw prizes would be gratefully received.

The results of our December's whist drive:

The winner of the ladies prize was Val Nunn on 174 points; Sylvia took second place with 168, closely followed by Joy on 167. Vera had a lot of bad luck and took the booby prize on 136 points.

The winning man was Jus!! (She kindly agreed to play as a man as we had an uneven number). Jus scored a very impressive 176. Steve took the second prize on 166 and there was a third place tie between Ray and Matt scoring 161 each. Bub took the booby prize with a 143 points.

We soon hope to provide refreshments once more but for now please feel free to bring your own drink and snacks. Please let us know your views on the night as to whether you feel it would be safe to reintroduce them in time for the March whist drive.



BRADFIELD WEATHER

We spend January 1st walking through our lives room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives not looking for flaws but for potential. - Ellen Goodman

After a relatively dry month the end of November produced some significant rain and snow, to leave us with 34mm for the month against our average of 63.6mm

December started with a very wet first ten days, a dry patch running up to Christmas and then more rain towards the end of the month, to finish with 74mm compared to an average of 56.9mm. The notable features were a lack of sunshine, which produced a gloomy month and at the end mid-teen temperatures, resulting with the warmest New Year's Eve on record.

Our annual total for 2021 was 623mm or 24.5 inches slightly above our 28year average of 613mm.

From that warm start to the year, I think it is fair to say the early days of January 2022 have been cold with low daytime temperatures and frosts by night. There has only been one day with any significant rain and to date we have just 14mm, with our monthly average at 51.3mm. We have just returned from a week in the Kent Downs and have enjoyed some lovely weather with cold, sometimes frosty nights and sunny days with cloudless skies and on those days with little or no breeze, warm enough to sit looking at the ever

*changing scene out to sea. I understand the village weather has been similar but lacking a sea view! **Keith Payne 23 January 2022***

News from Homefield

I sit here mid-afternoon ready to write my piece for the Grapevine. We had a sharp frost this morning, which soon cleared but now it's as though somebody has put a fog machine on full bore. The sheep were visible ten minutes ago, but have now disappeared, hopefully not literally! I'm sure if I tapped the feed bin they would appear.

The allotment is very wet at the moment and apart from spreading compost on the surface ready for rotovating in later on, nothing has really been happening. We still have beetroot, parsnips, leeks and turnips which are holding up quite well in the ground. The carrots which were looking and tasting really good have now got the fly so you have to pick and choose the good bits. In the polytunnel I have a few sweet peas ready for repotting and have put some broad beans in pots for an early start.

We borrowed a ram again this year and hopefully around 1st April we should have a few lambs. You would have thought after my last writings concerning escaping sheep I would learn to think ahead. Here I quote from my November writings (never thought I'd be able to "quote" myself) "Finding a ram without a Houdini gene could be a priority". The ram in question **was** named Houdini, but hopefully it's only a name. I might try a numbered one next time. With all the wet, muddy weather I have had a few foot problems with the sheep. This week it was Lola who was very lame on her front foot. I penned her to trim her foot. I wasn't really sure about lifting her up, as she is hopefully in lamb and I might disturb something. So I went for her foot, lifted it up, trimmed and cleaned it whilst she just stood there. Does this make me a 'sheep whisperer' or will I pay for it next time. Another thing that struck me was how well all the other sheep were walking whilst watching me carefully trimming Lola's feet - worried about being next?

Just looked back to my first writings in April 2014 and apparently the bedding in the cow yards was getting very high, enough for Sheila the Shorthorn to push on the guttering to make it squeak. Martha was due to calve next and turnout to grass was imminent. Harrowing and aerating the grass were the next outdoor jobs. There was also a disclaimer at the end stating that all the female names in the above piece were for identification purposes only and bear no resemblance to any of the local ladies.

Busy afternoon reflecting :)

GATEHOUSE FOOD BANK

We would like to say a big “thank you” to those people who went out of their way to support our village collection for the food bank in the lead-up to Christmas, and since. You know who you are!

We made two sizeable deliveries to their distribution point before the holiday and have only today (9/1/22) collected another pleasing amount from the box in the church porch. This will be delivered immediately.

The need for this help for less fortunate people is not going away and the pressures upon the Gatehouse team continue to increase. You have been generous as a village. Please can we ask that this generosity continues into 2022.

The box in the church porch remains and there is a further box by the front door of The Maltings, on Bury Road.

Thanks again. Clive and Sue Leal.

Parish Council News

At the Parish Council meeting in November 2021, the amount we ask West Suffolk Council to provide the Parish Council for annually was agreed. It is known as the Precept, and is the Parish Council's budget for the year.

The Precept for 2021-2022 was £2660. We have increased it in 2022-2023 to £3184. £440 of that increase is to cover an increase in hours for our Parish Clerk. The hours will increase from 3 hours per week to 3.5 hours per week.

The increase in the Precept equates to an increase of £6.31 per year for a Band D property in the village (will increase or decrease depending on the Council Tax Band of your property). £6.31 is approximately 12p per week for a Band D property

Litter Pick - Saturday 5th March

The Parish Council look forward to seeing as many volunteers as possible to help with the organised litter pick on Saturday 5th March, starting at 10am outside of the Village Hall. All litter picking equipment and black bags will be provided but please bring along your own gloves. These organised litter picking events have been very successful in the past and we hope that this years' one brings out as many volunteers as possible to help keep our village looking at its best.

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council



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A Few Creative Challenges for after Lunch

ANSWERS

Carl wins race after race, he is the fastest runner, and yet he gets no trophy, why? ***Carl is a horse***

You are hiking with a friend in Thetford Forest, a cold front quickly approaches and you find shelter behind a huge boulder. A fire will be necessary for you to survive the storm. In your pack you have a match, a candle, a tightly wound ball of birch bark and a roll of toilet paper. Which would you light first? ***The Match***

There is a man who guesses the score of every game before kick off. How can he do this? ***Before the game starts the score is always 0-0***

How much dirt is in a round hole that is 7ft deep with a diameter of 4 and a half feet? ***None at all. The hole is made by digging the dirt out, so... the hole is empty.***

A cat jumped out of the window of a 30 storey apartment building and lived. How? ***It jumped out of the ground floor window.***

There is a boy and his father on a late flight from New York to Denver. Part way through the flight the boy becomes curious and asks to see the plane's controls. He is allowed into the cockpit, and the pilot shows him the controls and after the boy goes back to his seat the pilot tells an attendant "that's my son". How is this possible? ***The pilot is the boy's mother.***

A girl who was learning to drive went down a one-way street in the wrong direction --she didn't break the law. How come? ***She was walking at the time.***

Bradfield Woods



Winter Events

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government guidelines***

Bradfield Woods February events:

**Every day 19th-25th Feb 10am
-2pm Nest box building for all.
Make a nest box to put up in your
garden. There will also be a trail
around the woods. £10 per box.**

**24th Feb- Wild in the woods
holiday club for 6-11 year olds.**

**27th Feb - Spoon carving course.
Wild tots is back starting on
Monday 28th Feb**

**6th March- Family Forest school
10am-12noon**

**Young wardens for
11-16 year olds**

**For more information and
booking**

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www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or 'phone

01473 890089



The Library Van

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St Clare Village Hall from **9.40am until 9.55am** on the following dates:

February	9th
March	9th
April	6th
May	4th
June	1st and 29th
July	27th
August	24th
September	21st
October	19th
November	16th

December	14th
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BIN COLLECTIONS FOR February 2022

Tuesday 1 February	Brown bin
Wednesday 2 February	Black bin
Wednesday 9 February	Blue bin
Tuesday 15 February	Brown bin
Wednesday 16 February	Black bin
Wednesday 23 February	Blue bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



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WEIBANG

A Village Magazine for the people of the Village

The editors will always be happy to accept articles, observations, crosswords, quizzes and general comments for the magazine.

Deadline for contributions 18th of the month please.

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@stedsbcb.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Book Club/Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bradfield 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	01473 583000
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 <i>Or alternatively call 111</i>
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	Mrs Jo Churchill - 01284 752311 www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.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

