

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



October 2021 No: 197

Writing this, having spent yesterday evening at Church for the Harvest Service, Autumn seems to have well and truly announced its arrival. It was a wonderful service - reflecting both the joys and hurdles presented to us all this year. The Church looked stunning! The floral displays lifted the soul - and so much colour.

You will read the reports from Isobel and Lorraine regarding the Church Bike Ride and MacMillan events of the past couple of weeks. Both great successes; for a small village, an awful lot goes on!

In true British tradition, we again wonder at what the weather will bring, as Keith reflects on last month - it seems to have been a right hotch-potch and not really following the traditional pattern - climate change? This has been very much in the news. We have started our old tradition of taking the litter picker and carrier bag around with us when we walk the village - sadly, needless to say it comes back full every time. We know others do this too - it may seem a small thing but hopefully every little thing makes a bit of a difference.

Tom writes of the harvest, the highs and the frustrations of a stop/start year. Mike spoke eloquently on the role farmers take on as 'custodians of the countryside' in his homily in Church (more on that in next month's Grapevine). It's true - we are so very lucky to have wonderful walks and views and a peaceful place to live, but alongside that comes the responsibility of looking after it. Part of the reward has been the stunning sunrises, sunsets and oh! my! that moon the other night :)

Margaret Lovick
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Message from the Rectory

Dear Friends

As we move towards the end of 2021 we begin to reflect on the year that we have just experienced. The dominating feature has, of course, been the Covid-19 pandemic. Vaccines, masks, social distancing have all become part of our everyday lives and vocabulary. We have been able to enjoy some sort of normality for a while now, but as the reports of the NHS coming under strain once again we are bracing ourselves for what we might be asked to do next.

The Church begins a period of 'remembering' at the beginning of November, and although All Saints (when we remember all the Saints who have died) and All Souls (when we remember everyone who has died) days fall on 1st and 2nd November respectively, we are going to be marking these on Sunday 31st October. At St Peter's in Cockfield we are going to be holding a service of 'Remembering' at 3pm. Some of you may have attended a service such as this in the past, and it will be similar. This year we will also be remembering those who have died of the Coronavirus, as well as those whom we have loved and see no more. If you would like the name of a loved one to be read out at the service, and a candle lit in their memory, then do please let me or any member of the Church know.


I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who took part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride in our benefice who raised cash for our wonderful Churches. Thank you also to all those who sponsored them. I am truly grateful.

with every blessing,

Sharon

Revd Sharon Potter, Rector of the Cockfield Benefice,
revsharon@btinternet.com; 01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – October 2021

<p>Saturday 2nd October</p>	 <p>All welcome – children must be accompanied by parents. 3-5pm, Felsham Church</p> <p>For more details contact the Rector or Christine Stainer: christinestainer57@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sunday 3rd October Trinity 18</p>	<p>9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Communion - Bradfield St George 10am Morning Prayer – Cockfield 6pm Celtic Style Communion – Felsham</p>
<p>Sunday 10th October Trinity 19</p>	<p>8am Communion BCP – Cockfield 10am Morning Prayer CW - Gedding 10am Communion – Bradfield St Clare 6pm Healing Service – Gt Whelnetham</p>
<p>Sunday 17th October Trinity 20</p>	<p>9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 10am Communion - Cockfield 10am Family Worship – Felsham 6pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare</p>
<p>Sunday 24th October Last After Trinity</p>	<p>9.30am Communion – Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion BCP – Gedding 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George</p>
<p>Sunday 31st October All Saints/All Souls</p>	<p>10am Benefice Communion for All Saints – Bradfield St Clare 3pm A Service for Remembering - Cockfield 3pm A Service for Remembering - Felsham</p>

A service will be recorded every Sunday morning and posted on the benefice facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/cockfieldbenefice/videos/?ref=page_internal

BRADFIELD WEATHER

'There is a time in late September when the leaves are still green, And the days are still warm, but somehow you know



That it is all about to end' - Sharyn McCrumb

The latter part of August continued on in an unsummer-like way with only very little rain in the final days, bringing the total for the month to 16.5mm against our average of 67.2mm. As I mentioned last month the rain had interrupted the harvest, but in fact this August was the driest since 2003, whilst August is on average our wettest month of the year.

The first of September is now the meteorological start of autumn but it has given us a late taste of summer with a couple of 29C days early in the month and remaining around 20C+ until the time of writing, although early mornings have shown distinct signs of autumn and leaves are starting to fall. Rainfall to date is just 10.5mm at present with our average at 48.6mm, but more forecast for later in the day and an unsettled few days ahead.

Keith Payne - 19th September 2021

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The weather held fair for the Saturday of the annual Ride and Stride and our church had a very successful day. We had a total of 24 visitors to admire our lovely church and to take advantage of the range of refreshments, including Mrs. Fayers delicious shortbread biscuits. This is certainly a higher total than in recent years. Seven took to the saddle on behalf of St Clare and this year Holly Hardingham brought her younger sister Lexy along with her. If she follows in her big sister's pedals she can also be a veteran before becoming a teenager! The longest distance covered was I believe 36 miles and visiting 20 churches. Final figures are not yet available but the valiant cyclists should raise in excess of £700 of which half will come to St Clare Church - so very well done and many thanks to The Magnificent Seven.

Churchwarden's report



On Saturday 11 September, I took part, for the 13th time, in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust charity event 'Ride and Stride'. And as in every previous year I spent the evenings before watching the local weather report anxiously hoping that it would not rain on the day – or maybe praying that it would! But the day dawned bright and clear and we set off at 9.30, firmly telling ourselves that we were having fun!

The route had been meticulously planned, first on the OS map and then later driven by car to measure the distances and locate some of the more well-hidden churches. What quickly became apparent, once we started cycling, was that in a car we had not noticed that we had chosen to ride over the hillier side of the county – definitely the hillier side of the county! Never believe anyone who tells you that there are no hills in Suffolk.

Suffolk has more mediaeval churches than any other county in England, apart from Norfolk and cycling from one to another is a wonderful way to appreciate them. You spot each tower in the distance with a gentle sigh of relief – another chance to stop pedalling and eat biscuits – and once you arrive you can admire the

lovely stone work and the glorious timber roofs.

Ride and Stride is not just about admiring the churches or raising money for charity, it is about the people you meet on the way, either cycling themselves or manning the churches. How can I forget the many ladies of Chevington, literally filling their beautiful little church with flowers and perfume for Harvest Festival the next day? Or the friendly owners of all the vintage cars gathered on the green in Hartest, proud to show us their wonderful vehicles and praise us for doing the ride the hard way! And how can I forget Hartest Hill!

As we cycled around our beautiful route I found myself thinking about the part that those churches have played in village life over centuries. I realised that the Church of England is not really about magnificent cathedrals, nor bishops in glorious vestments, nor beautifully trained choirs. For me, it is about the rural churches of England, loved and cared for by villagers for centuries. It is about all the hard work that is done to clean them and maintain them, to decorate them and to love them and fill them with flowers. And it is about the people who do that, week after week, year after year, working incredibly hard to raise money so that their little, much-loved church can stay open as it always has. As someone once said – I forget who – ‘You can imagine a church without an English village, but you can’t imagine an English village without a church!’

Last year our churches were closed and at times I wondered whether they would ever reopen. But they have and they are as beautiful as ever. After 36 miles and 17 churches, not to mention tuna sandwiches and endless free biscuits I descended gently from my trusty bike and decided that Yes, I had had lots of fun!



The Library Van

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:

Month	Date
October	20th
November	17th
December	15th

BIN COLLECTIONS FOR OCTOBER 2021

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Tuesday 12 October	Brown bin
Wednesday 13 October	Black bin
Wednesday 20 October	Blue bin
Tuesday 26 October	Brown Bin
Wednesday 27 October	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Bradfield St.Clare Macmillan Coffee Day 2021

Not too late to still DONATE

Well, well - what a day! Following last year's Cycle By initiative by Sue and Clive, we extended this year's event to our village and friends.

Cakes galore - all shapes, all sizes, all flavours. What a selection to choose from, alongside savoury goodies, all washed down with copious hot and cold drinks! I'd like to say not a calorie was consumed but I'd be lying! Just wishful thinking.

Now to mention 'the weather' - having kept moving anything chocolatey away from the sunshine in the morning, so we ended the day saving everything from drowning! Yes, sadly the weather forecast was correct and so the heavens opened, the thunder clapped and a certain number of villagers stuck it out until 3.30pm (you know who you are - wet clothes, soggy shoes, ruined hair do's). Hope you've all recovered by the time you're reading this.

BUT our spirits were not dampened (excuse the pun) having raised a healthy sum of money for Macmillan - **around £400.**

Many, many thanks to the army of bakers who really excelled themselves - maybe time for a Village Bake Off!

Many thanks to all helpers, both setting up Saturday and manning their posts Sunday. An anticipated Thankyou to whoever helps with the clearing up process once the weather permits.

Of course the biggest thanks go to the people who came and generously supported this worthy cause, let's face it each and every one of us have been or will be touched by Cancer.

It's not too late to late to still donate - please contact Lorraine Morley 01284 386270 or 07742151667

An update of Total raised will be in next month's Grapevine.

Autumn Farming Reflections - *from Tom and Ali*

With foggy mornings, sunny days and cooler and darker evenings now upon us, we have now arrived in my favourite season, Autumn. The fields and countryside around us are now changing very quickly as harvest finally draws to a close. Most combinable crops are in the shed now and we look towards harvesting our crop of sugar beet. This crop is remarkable in its ability to grow; capturing sunlight, moisture and nutrition from the soil in such a short period of time. To give you some idea, we planted around 6kg of sugar beet seed per hectare back in April; and we will look to harvest between 70 and 100 tonnes of sugar beet root per hectare in October!

We have concerns over the percentage sugar content this year after the lack of sunshine in August, but we would typically aim for around 17-18% sugar which is extracted at the factory in Bury. So approximately 17 tonnes per hectare of 'Silver Spoon' British sugar is grown here in Bradfield St Clare each year. That should be enough for all the cakes you've all made for the MacMillan coffee morning at least! With so much rain early summer I'm sure the root weight this year will be there but the sugars may be lower than average unless we get a burst of sunshine throughout the second half of September and early October.

Our Westerwold grass leys have yielded well this year giving us 2 cuts, 1 bailed early for silage and 1 bailed late August for hay. To continue the fertility building process on these 2 fields we have followed this grass crop with an autumn established herbal ley consisting of 16 different species of grasses, legumes, forbes and brassicas. Moving away from monoculture agricultural practices we are building soil fertility, fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere, growing and storing carbon and increasing plant, insect and mammalian diversity here in Bradfield St Clare. As farmers we take pride in being custodians of the countryside and the mindset of my generation of younger farmers is certainly one that is looking to move forward in a way that protects and enhances the environment

we all enjoy to live in; whilst also securing good quality food supply chains and developing more sustainable practices in how we grow and consume the nutritious foods produced on UK farms. It is very important to support UK farmers and buy locally and seasonally as much as we all can.

Work on the farm in the autumn moves away from harvesting and baling to soil cultivations and planting of our autumn sown crops of wheat, barley and beans. We are constantly learning and evolving our practices as farmers and this year we have developed a new system that offsets carbon losses from the soil at the point of cultivation; and works more harmoniously with the biologicals that live in our soils.

When we cultivate soil we aerate the soil and introduce oxygen which increases the respiration rate of the soil microbes. A tablespoon of healthy soil contains billions of soil microbes which work to digest the organic portions of our soil making nutrition available to the plants. When aerated, this process speeds up and releases carbon into the atmosphere. Over time, the crops and plants we grow will recapture that carbon when they grow in the spring, but in order to combat this carbon loss in the first place we have designed a tool to inject a molasses based sugar solution into the soil at the point of cultivation that the soil microbes can then feed off rather than feeding off our long standing carbon that is locked into our organic matter. This injected solution will last through until our autumn crops are established at which point the plant roots will take over the role of pumping sugars and exudates into the soil to feed the biology, again keeping the long-standing carbon locked into the organic matter. Whoever said farming was simple...!

Autumn is a fantastic season for foraging! Berries and nuts are ripe for the picking from our hedgerows and meal prep here at Dairy Farm now revolves more around roast dinners and apple crumbles rather than salads and soft fruit desserts as we have now picked the last of our summer lettuces, courgettes and tomatoes from the veg patch. The plums have been delicious picked and eaten straight

from the tree the last few weeks and our conference pears are swelling to a pickable size now too. All around us nature provides wonderfully at this time of year and I just love the colours that are soon to be seen as the Oak and Ash shed their leaves. Bromley Wood in the heart of Bradfield St Clare can be seen on the skyline from most of the Parish and certainly from all corners of Bishops Farm and the transitioning colour change is a delightful spectacle to see as the nights now draw in from here to December.

We look forward to celebrating the harvest festival later this month and wish you all a warm and cosy Autumn.



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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.

October is the eighth month of the old Roman year. It was known as the 'yellow month' from the fading of the leaf.

Where have all the swallows gone?

Normally at the time of writing this we would see flocks of swallows fluttering about restlessly, swooping low across the fields searching for food and gathering on the telegraph wires. I always enjoyed listening to their chatter and it was a definite sign that colder weather was on the way when they suddenly disappeared overnight to make their arduous return journey to South Africa. Last year there were sadly very few swallows and this year I have seen none at all.

One possible reason is that back in April, 2020 it was reported thousands of swallows had been killed by high winds near Greece and it is possible that this event has had a knock-on effect on the British swallow population. Other factors that may have impacted the number of swallows, according to the RSPB, in 2020 is lack of water en route to the UK, reduced insect populations (less food for the swallows) pollution and pesticides, humans hunting and trapping swallows

So now here we are with a noticeable lack of swallows. Is this something we are just going to have to get used to? Well apparently there may be a ray of hope. According to Angela Turner, author of *Swallow*, the UK's swallow population was very low in the eighties but increased. In her opinion it is too early to say whether this decline is a blip or a continuing trend. I do hope it is the former as, to me, a summer without swallows is like strawberries without cream.

Days of note: We all know about Halloween but there are several myths and legends associated with certain days in October. Here are a couple: **10th October: Devil's Blackberry Day.** From this day, according to folklore, you are not supposed to pick any more blackberries, as it was once thought that the Devil spits on them today, making them poisonous. Legend has it that on this day St Michael threw the Devil out of heaven, the latter landed in a blackberry bush and cursed them.

18th October: St Luke. Often there is a spell of warm weather at this time, especially if the summer has been poor. It is known as 'St Luke's Little Summer'.

Finally we should have just enjoyed the harvest moon at the end of September. We are lucky to enjoy such excellent views of the sunset skies, stars and the moon in Bradfield St Clare. I like this quote by Deng Ming-Dao, a Chinese American philosopher:

The moon does not fight. It attacks no one. It does not worry. It does not try to crush others. It keeps to its course, but by its very nature, it gently influences. What other body could pull an entire ocean from shore to shore? The moon is faithful to its nature and its power is never diminished."

Val Nunn

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@stedsbcc.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)
Police Twitter name	@stedspolice 01473 613500
Post office Delivery Office	01284 358201
Schools:Cockfield Primary	01284 828287
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West Suffolk College	01284 701301
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St Edmunds RC Church	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358

