

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



March 2024 No:222

Really looking forward to a few lighter and warmer nights, the clocks spring forward on **Saturday 30 March (well, actually 1am on Sunday but we're not staying up to do that!)**- ok, we lose an hour's sleep maybe, but the joy of the lighter evenings far outweighs the minor deprivation! REMEMBER to change your clocks 😊

Charity for the Relief in Sickness

This is a charity which is there to benefit all residents of Bradfield St Clare and St George. It can support with provision of financial and other forms of assistance to persons resident in the parishes of Bradfield St George and Bradfield St Clare during periods of illness or convalescence, or persons who are disabled or infirm. If you would like to make an application to this charitable fund please contact Rev. Richard Stainer on 01284 388175 or for more general information please contact Margaret Lovick 01284 386662

Plenty to read this month - if you enjoy it and fancy sending in a contribution for next month - we'd love it 😊

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear friends

A recent Easter quiz that I lifted from a well-known magazine recently had some interesting facts that I thought the readers of the Grapevine might like to know. They are:

- around 80 million Easter Eggs are sold in the UK each year
- the first Easter eggs were hens' eggs that were dyed red
- In Eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called 'Lazarus Saturday'

You will have guessed from my musings so far that this month I am thinking about Easter as I plan for the services that will take place on Easter Sunday which this year falls on Sunday 31st March. But before Easter Day comes Holy Week, when we walk the way of the cross with Jesus as he anticipates the crucifixion.

For celebrating Easter without attending to the events of the week leading up to it is like serving chips without the fish. They go together. To walk the way of the cross with Jesus - as we call it in the Christian Church - is to reflect and pray about the days leading up to his death. In that week he travelled to Jerusalem and was hailed as the 'King of the Jews' who would save the Jewish people from oppression by the Romans - we know it as Palm Sunday.

He ate bread and drank wine and shared it with the disciples, his friends, which we call the 'Last Supper', and we remember that 'Last Supper' on Maundy Thursday. That evening he also washed the feet of his disciples, even though this was something that was usually carried out by a servant.

On Good Friday, the day when Jesus was crucified, we think about the pain Jesus suffered on behalf of the world, of all of us, so that we might be forgiven our sins forever.

And then, on Easter Sunday we can celebrate Jesus coming back to life - that miracle of all miracles. The pain of the previous three days has gone, although not forgotten, and we can once again marvel at God's love for us all, whether we do or don't believe in God.

How ever you are spending Easter Day, may God's blessing be with you and those you love.

with every blessing

Sharon

Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599

Cockfield Benefice Services and events March 2024

Sunday 3 March Third Sunday in Lent	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Six2Seven - Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 10 March Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	10am Mothering Sunday Service - Cockfield 10.30am Communion CW - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Saturday 16th March	10am-12 noon - coffee morning and raffle in aid of the Bishops' Kagera Lent Appeal - Cockfield Rectory
Sunday 17 March Passion Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer CW - Stanningfield 10am Morning Worship - Felsham 10.30am Communion CW - Cockfield 4pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 23 March Venue tbc	Fun - food - crafts - stories for all children (must be accompanied by a parent or guardian) for more details contact Canon Sharon
Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday	9.30am Walk of Witness from Felsham to Gedding 10.30am Palm Sunday Communion - Gedding
Monday 25 March	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St Clare
Tuesday 26 March	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St Clare
Wednesday 27 March	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 28 March	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion - Bradfield St George
Friday 29 March	2pm Reflections on Good Friday - Stanningfield
Sunday 31 March Easter Sunday	10.30am Communion CW - Gt Whelnetham 10.30am Communion CW - Cockfield 10.30am Communion BCP - Gedding 10.30am Morning Praise for Easter Day - Felsham

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 normally held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am. For more details contact Canon Sharon, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284-828599 or 078250860



Village Litter Pick - Saturday 23 March 2024

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am

Please come and help us keep our village looking tidy and cared for.

Rubbish sacks provided. We have some litter pickers and a couple of hi-vis vests but if you have your own please bring them along with some gloves for yourself.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on

Thursday 21 March at 2pm

at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

Village Friends is an over 65's friendship group of men and women from various villages who meet once a month. This month there will be an Easter related activity.

All welcome, just come along

If you require transport please contact:

Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063 revsharon2@gmail.com

or

Susan Metcalf 07925 867221

st.metcalf@btinternet.com

Sponsored by the Cockfield Benefice



Our next opening will be: Saturday, 16th March from 11 am – 1 pm
This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE Why not make a date in your diary?

Please come and join friends and neighbours (past and present) for coffee, tea, cakes and savouries. Pop in for five minutes or stay for the whole two hours. There are games, colouring books and pencils to keep our younger visitors amused. We have quite a selection of books in the hall too so please feel free to take some home to read. There are also a few jigsaws that can be borrowed/exchanged. There is something for everyone at the Kit Café and you can be sure of a very warm welcome and plenty of lively chat.

Any offers of help in the kitchen or setting up would be most welcome. Equally donations of cakes or savouries would be much appreciated. It's always nice to see somebody turning up with a sample of their favourite recipe!

At our February opening we announced the winner of our Winter Quiz. Out of over 50 entries returned there were only two all correct so it must have been more difficult this time! Several people commented that it was lots of fun trying to work out the answers though. The winner was, once again, Jen Larnar and she will receive a £10 voucher to spend at Waterstones. We raised £72.50 for the village hall and we are planning another quiz in the summer.

A 'Tactful' Easter (Dundee) Cake

Encouraged by your favourable reaction to my tale of the panto I now give you another tale from my very long, and often chaotic life but I assure you it is absolutely true!

When we were first married in 1955 Peter was in the navy, he had just been commissioned, an officer no less but of the lowest order, acting temporary sub lieutenant Hipwell! He was stationed along with two or three dozen young graduates (all electrical engineers) at Farnham, Hants, HMS Collingwood, the naval school for training these young lads for the very responsible job of managing all the electrics and electronics on every type of vessel, aircraft carriers, frigates etc, all were young, care free and more than a little prone to practical jokes (pranks), some slightly irresponsible to say the least. One of the less outrageous favourite games after mess nights playing bicycle polo using croquet mallets and balls on the hallowed wardroom lawn -result - lots of battered bikes and equally battered bodies (and egos) and severe reprimands.

Nevertheless, these young men were the elite and many became Commanders, Captains and even Admirals of the future. It had become a tradition for these young blades to gang together and go to the point to point at Cowdray Park on Easter Monday, great fun, lots of old sports cars, Lagondas, Wolsey's, MG's nothing like the spotless, immaculate vintage cars you see today - not a bit- new cars were like hen's teeth after the war and all the pre-war ones out of commission - no petrol for private cars - these old crocks were resurrected and returned to use in various states of reliability - held together with string straps, hope and a prayer. Our little 1932 (same age as me) Austin 7, black, just like a biscuit box didn't really fit in with this dilapidated but glamorous group so we went with our best man in his Talbot, alias the 'blue bomb', so called because being rather bored one Sunday afternoon he decided to paint it with a tin

of bright blue Valspar, it didn't help that it was raining at the time - gave it a very strange mottled dimpled look. No hood but it did have an old-fashioned picnic basket strapped on the back. All picnics were produced from baskets like this - no boxes or plastic containers - no plastic at all in fact - glasses, china plates, cups and saucers etc. no picnic chairs or mod cons just plaid picnic rugs and the odd shooting stick.

Food? Very basic, really only just over 10 years since the end of the war and some things were only just out of rationing. Sandwiches - corned beef, ham, cheese (cheddar) and Branston pickle. Sliced bread had not crossed the Atlantic, so you cut your own slices, thick or thin from a tin loaf with a bread saw, buttered, filled and wrapped in greaseproof paper, no foil or plastic wrap. Fruit was seasonal so probably no tomatoes or cucumbers. But some things never change - Crisps- YES! individual packets of Smith's plain crisps, each with a little screw of royal blue waxed paper containing salt to be shaken in just before consumption - delicious. There were stalls selling a huge variety of beer, Whitbread, Whitney's and lots of local brews. We girls drank cider or shandies, hip flasks of brandy were bandied about - rather a lot of alcohol was imbibed I admit it, there was no drink driving, no speed limits etc, in our defence the cars were relatively slow, max speed 60 mph, no motorways and very few cars on the road - traffic jams, not heard of!

Right - let's cut to the chase - **where is the cake?!**

Well, I confess, I've left one small detail of one small event out of this saga. What did I contribute to this 'rural repast'?

Well, Mother was a very good, resourceful cook, you wouldn't have survived the war if you didn't learn '50 things to do with turnips', but unfortunately she did not pass on her culinary skills to her eldest daughter - or perhaps I was unreceptive, anyway, I was very limited in that department. So, armed with my 'Good Housekeeping Picture Cookery Book', a gift from my godmother (which I've still got) page 201 Dundee cake became my go to *piece de resistance*, fail safe, I made one to produce along with the thermos of tea at the end of the

point-to-point with a great flourish - but within seconds everyone was choking, gagging and turning black and blue, all colours of the rainbow - spat out as quickly as possible - *quelle horreur!*

Confession time - in an effort to cheer up our rather colourless kitchen in our first flat - I'd made new curtains plus frill pelmet held in place with tintacks...very small, black, very sharp, much smaller than drawing pins, and I had put them in the pan of of the old fashioned weighing machine on a high shelf - time to create the cake a couple of months later - weighed out the flour, almonds, sultanas, CURRANTS, add to fat, stir in eggs, mix well - perfect, delicious except for the unusual addition two or three dozen TINTACKS - henceforth known as the Tackful Cake!

I make one every Easter and Christmas - if you're very good and ask nicely I'll make one for next month's Kit Cafe - then you can all have a piece of Tackless Cake - form an orderly queue, if you dare!

Within two months life had become much more serious, a gentleman called Colonel Nasser, president of Egypt, had 'nationalised' the Suez with disastrous consequences, and the navy was mobilised, all these young men were rapidly posted to all the different ships, Peter went to HMS Ocean, an Aircraft Carrier and they all went charging off to the Mediterranean to support resolving the situation.

These ramblings may be, to the older citizens among you, a trip down memory lane - for the younger a little bit of social history.

Pat Hipwell

Spiced Carrot, Pistachio & Almond Cake.

This is also gluten free!

- 3 large eggs
 - 200g caster sugar
 - 2 tsp vanilla extract
 - 200g ground almonds
 - 100g dedicated coconuts
 - 2 heaped tsps ground Cinnamon
 - 150g melted unsalted butter
 - 2 large carrots coarsely grated
 - 100g shelled and roughly chopped pistachios
 - Icing sugar for dusting
-
- Preheat oven to 140c fan assisted
 - Line a 23cm springform tin with baking paper sides and bottom
 - Beat the eggs, sugar, vanilla extract together
 - Add the ground almonds, coconut and cinnamon and stir
 - Add the melted butter and mix well
 - Add the grated carrots and pistachios and mix again until well combined.
 - Spoon into tin and bake for 1 hour or until firm to touch and a crust forms on top
 - Allow to cool in tin, overnight if you can, the cake can last for a week in a container, it gets moister with time from the oils in the nuts! This cake makes a perfect pudding served with cream.

Enjoy.

Frankie x



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Spring oh spring when will you be sprung?!

What a wet winter; and as I write it's raining out there again putting a halt to any hope of spring planting just yet. As the years go by, as farmers we are having to be more and more geared up to 'make hay when the sun shines' as the old saying goes and be ready to put all hands-on-deck when the weather finally allows and make sure we do not miss valuable opportunities to plant, fertiliser or spray our crops. It is already evident that that's how this spring will eventually start at Bishops Farm.

By this time last year (18th Feb), it was around 16 degrees during the day and crucially it was dry. By the 22nd Feb last year all the autumn crops had had their first spray applications of spring trace elements; all land ahead of spring crops had been cultivated, all the spring barley and oats had been planted; all winter crops, spring barley, oats and grass had had their first top dressing of Nitrogen fertiliser; and by the end of the month Ali and I had snuck off to New York knowing that the farm was as up to date as it could be!

What a contrast so far this year and all of the above tasks are still yet to be done (except the trip to New York unfortunately). When you lose a month of farming at this point in the year you inevitably have to play catch up and the workload condenses into an even shorter period because as sure as eggs are eggs, harvest will feature at the same time as it does every year. With a condensed window to operate it is more crucial not to miss a weather window and we await the start of spring eagerly sitting on our stocks of fuel, fertiliser and seed!

Despite the weather, the contract beet harvesters were able to lift all the sugar beet in acceptable order in early February and fortunately Mike was able to plough up right behind the harvester even if it took up most of his weekend. Ploughing this land late in the winter and as wet as it is, is something we try to avoid; however, if the land was left uncultivated and was left exposed to the amount of rain we've now had since the beet were harvested, we would never have done anything with the land for quite some time. Picture the battle of the Somme. The ploughed land will sit proud now and take the weather much better than left unploughed, so sometimes despite our long-term progression for better soil health the only option is to throw horsepower and diesel at a situation to be able to reset the clock on our soil health journey.

We have various emotions surrounding the sugar beet crop. Mike and I have always enjoyed the growing of Sugar beet, and before us Bishops Farm has seen sugar beet crops grown since the 1950's. Prior to sugar beet, fodder beet and mangle varieties were grown for cattle feed, so it's taken us many years of discussion to finally commit to the decision to cease growing sugar beet. The factory at Bury has been processing Sugar beet since 1924 and so sugar production has been a major contributor to our rural economy for 100 years. We like that sugar beet has such local prowess; however the last few years have proved that with the loss of effective pest control options; less consistent sugar yields; lower prices British Sugar are prepared to pay for beet; our reliance on contractors to harvest the crop; and the damage done to the soil by the harvest operation; growing sugar beet unfortunately no longer fits with the long term objectives we have for the land at Bishops Farm. Never say never again, but for the time being we will be taking a break from our contract obligations with British Sugar in favour of our increasingly more reliable beef enterprise and low input pulse crops as breaks to our cereal crops.

As farmers we have to evolve in order to survive. This is nothing new, for hundreds of years this is how family farming businesses have been

able to span multiple generations, by adapting to the ever-changing pressures on the farmed environment and 'playing the long game'.

An external pressure we are currently facing on the farm is the construction of the water pipeline by Anglia water. You may have seen the numerous fence posts being erected and hedges cut back along the proposed route of the new pipeline. An infrastructure project we have no power to influence, the pipeline will cut through 8 of our 13 fields disrupting our farming operations and land drainage system over the course of the next 12 months or so. All we can do is work as best as we can with the project, let it pass through and attempt to restore the land and landscape back to its former beauty over time. It's a destructive infrastructure project but will certainly future proof the water supply to all of us residing in the Eastern Counties for generations to come.

At least with the run of wet weather all office tasks are up to date as we approach our Red Tractor farm assurance audit in March and head towards the end of another tax year in April. The latest group of steers have made fantastic weight gains as a group over winter and look to be our best stock yet ahead of turnout later this spring. We took part in the Big Farmland Bird count in mid-February recording sightings of various tits, sparrows, owls, partridges, pheasants, buzzards, a heron and 2 Egyptian geese! All good signs that our farmland bird diversity is strong. And finally, as part of the Suffolk Show Association's 'Tractors into Schools' initiative I took my New Holland T5.115 into Hardwick Primary school for years 1, 2 and reception to get up close to a real-life farmer and his tractor! I talked around Sugar beet, wheat and oats with samples of all these crops for the children to hold and feel. It shocked me how few children were able to make the connection between my sugar beet and the processing factory in their home town. Education is so important and with jam packed curriculums already I strongly believe it's up to us as farmers to engage with the public from a young age to stimulate thought and engagement with the importance of food production for a healthy and thriving society. Until Next time, **Tom, Dairy Farm House.**

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Bradfield Weather

Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Jan 2024
53 mm	90 mm	14 mm	79 mm	57 mm
Feb 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2022	Feb 2023	Feb 2024
68 mm	38 mm	42 mm	6 mm	91 to 19 th !

ENOUGH. RAIN. NOW.

I'm tempted to leave it at that but wouldn't wish to short-change you(?!). Updating the table necessitated looking up last year's Jan and Feb reports: January started with saying the ground was too dry and February commented on it being the driest February for 30 years. What a difference a year makes. Last year I'd noted there had been some good frosts for killing pests and diseases – this winter has generally been mild apart from two separate weeks of frost and I don't think it's enough. Slugs are already active, the place seems to be overrun with muntjac which are eating any crocus and tulip bulbs that are showing themselves and I'm a bit fed up with it all!

However, the snowdrops have been lovely and the wet weather has given them plenty of moisture to keep flowering (now is an excellent time to divide them if you have any and current conditions are good for establishing the new clumps). I've also just found the first *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (the native daffodil) flowering out in the parkland here. Normally they don't flower until the end of March and although it's early I'm cheered by their arrival and hope they will get a chance to seed before the grass engulfs them. Let us remain optimistic for the weather/gardening year ahead.

Alice Ward-Thomas ^{19th} February 2024

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:

6 March	21 August
3 April	28 September
1 May	16 October
29 May	13 November
26 June	11 December
24 July	

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 6 March	Blue Bin
Tuesday 12 March	Brown Bin
Wednesday 13 March	Black Bin
Wednesday 20 March	Blue Bin
Tuesday 26 March	Brown Bin
Wednesday 27 March	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Village Hall Whist Drive



Unfortunately there were only nine players at our February Whist Drive so we decided to just award a prize for the winning lady and winning gentleman. The winning lady was Val on 166 and Derek won the gentleman's prize on 165. Despite the poor turnout everyone enjoyed some really close games.

If you enjoy playing cards please consider coming along. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 1st March at 7.30 pm.** 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.

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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 Book Club/Village Hall 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 <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