

REACHING OUT from the Cockfield Benefice

Covering the villages of:
Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield
St George w Lt Whelnetham,
Bradfield Combust,
Cockfield, Felsham, Gedding,
Gt Whelnetham &
Stanningfield



**May 2024
Issue 116**

Dear Friends

At the beginning of each month I often recall a nursery rhyme that I learnt as a child. It also helped me to remember the order of the months. It started, 'January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow'. Well I'm remembering the month of May that says, 'May brings flocks of pretty lambs, skipping by their fleecy dams'. I'm not quite sure what a 'fleecy dam' is, but I've certainly seen lots of lambs frolicking in nearby fields.

New life is exciting, and as we move towards the end of the Easter season, with Ascension Day and Pentecost before us, we can give thanks for the new life that is all around us.

On 9 May we will be celebrating the Ascension of our Lord. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus did not take a sideways exit, or descend into the bowels of the earth. He 'went up'. I've often thought that the Ascension rounds off the period of Easter in a very upbeat way. Even though Jesus embraced suffering and sorrow in his passion, his story is not in the end a tragedy. It is not like a Puccini opera where all the main characters are killed off in the name of love! After the darkness and defeat of the crucifixion, the ascension brings us to the end of a chapter – but not the end of the story.

This year we are doing something different for Ascension Day. St Peter and Paul, Lavenham have invited the whole deanery to celebrate together, you will find the invitation later on in this issue of Reaching Out. I do hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a special day.

The disciples must have been really sad to lose Jesus from their midst again, but Jesus gives them a promise, 'When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'.

What a promise, and then see how that promise is fulfilled! This year Pentecost Sunday is 19 May, and we have several services happening that day, I hope you will be able to come and join in the worship and to praise God for the Holy Spirit that was sent to be our friend and comforter.

We have such great opportunities for praising God who has given us so much, his Son Jesus, and his Holy Spirit. Three-in-one to guide us and help us as we journey together.

I pray May will be a glorious month for us all.

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com 01284 828599 or 07825 086063,

Rev Richard Stainer, our assistant priest can be contacted at richard.stainer14@gmail.com or tel: 01284 388175

Rev Helen Grover, our assistant curate can be contacted at revhelengrover@gmail.com or tel: 01787 269223.



Christian Aid Week 12th-18th May 2024

We will be delivering Christian Aid envelopes again this year, and asking for these to be returned to a specified point nearby. This year, the week will focus on the cost of living crisis faced by many people around the world. Please be generous, and contact me if you are able to help with delivering envelopes. Thank you. Sharon.

Village Friends *(our over 65's friendship group)*

The May Village Friends meeting will take place on **Thursday 16 May** at Felsham Village Hall from 2-4pm.

This month we will be enjoying a game or two of Bingo, with some nice prizes for the winners!



Please let Sue Metcalf or Canon Sharon know if you'd like to come and if you'd also like transport. Contact Sue Metcalf at st.metcalf@btinternet.com, or telephone 01284 828581 or 07925 867221 or Canon Sharon on 01284 828599 or 07825 086063, revsharon2@gmail.com.



There will be a
Plant Sale & Coffee Morning
at St Peter's Church, Cockfield
on Saturday 25th May 2024
10am-12.30pm

Refreshments and cakes available
In aid of the Church

Holiday Club 2024 - Sport's Academy

We are planning to run Holiday Club for primary school aged children again this summer from July 29-August 2, mornings only, in a village hall in the benefice.



If you would like to be involved please contact either Canon Sharon revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or Christine on christinestainer57@gmail.com or 07443626499. **Thank you!**



THE EMERGERS

LOCAL FOLK BAND



11 MAY 2024

at St Peter's Church,
Cockfield

7pm

tickets £10 (which
includes a light snack)

bar available

Enhanced Acoustics!

for tickets contact:

SUE COLE 01284 828212

DAVE SMITH 01284 828239

NORMAN KELLY 01284 828904

A Spoonful Of *Hope* Keeps Us Motivated



The title of our new series of Worshipping Together is “Hope, faith and doubt in an age of uncertainty”. Hope is in short supply as we read our newspapers or listen to increasingly depressing news. However, I often read articles, explaining that studies demonstrate that hope is essential if we are to remain motivated and optimistic. The Bible is full of messages of hope and in his latest book “Reimagining Britain” Justin Welby makes frequent references to hope.

At Easter we celebrate the fact that Jesus died on the cross to give us the hope of salvation. The Christian message should be one of hope.

By the time you read this, our Rector, Sharon, will have led our opening Worshipping Together service “The Word brings hope”, based on the fact that Jesus is referred to as “The Word” at the start of John’s Gospel. If you are in need of some hope, come along to the subsequent talks.

William Cardale

'Worshipping Together' takes place on the 4th Sunday of the month at 10am at Bradfield St George.

Celebrating our Churchwardens

Everyone is invited to a celebration for our Churchwardens at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on **Sunday 5 May at 3.30pm**. Churchwardens are the Bishops' representatives in the parishes, as well as carrying out very many tasks in their local church. Please do come and support them!

Big Green Challenge for May

How clean are our waterways in the UK?

A Parliamentary Report of two years ago gave us some idea:



Raw sewage, microplastics and slurry are coursing through all of England's rivers, putting health and nature at risk, a parliamentary report concludes.

- Agriculture and water companies are the biggest contributors to this "chemical cocktail", the Environmental Audit Committee warns.
- Car tyre particles, oils and wet wipes are also clogging waterways.
- People across the country using rivers for activities ranging from sports and swimming to fishing risk falling ill from bacteria in sewage and slurry.
- The water and riverbanks are also home to rich plant, fish and insect life and are essential to biodiversity. But chemicals, plastics and an excess of nutrients are choking the water.
- No river in England can be given a clean bill of health, the group of MPs on the committee concluded after months of hearing from experts.
- Pollution from intensive farming, in particular from chicken farms, is the most common way rivers are being contaminated, the report says.
- Excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen leaked into water cause algae to bloom to high levels in water - that's the cause of the thick, bright green layer often seen coating waterways.
- This can prevent oxygen entering the water, suffocating life beneath the surface.

Source: BBC News

**An invitation to celebrate Ascension Day with
Lavenham Church and the Deanery
Thursday 9 May 2024**

Everyone is cordially invited to join Rev Canon Simon Pitcher and the congregation at Lavenham to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and the strength and beliefs of our Deanery. We will start by climbing the tower and celebrating with songs of praise - aiming to be at the top, with breath enough to sing at 8am sharp. **There are 192 steps to the top of the tower, so this part of the celebration is not for the faint-hearted. It is absolutely *not* mandatory...** (we also need to point out that this part of the celebrations is weather-dependent, the treads at the top of the tower get very slippery when wet...enough said!)


At 8.30am, breakfast will be served in the area under the tower. At 10am, Rev Canon Sharon, our Rural Dean, and Rev Canon Simon, Rector of Lavenham, will celebrate Holy Communion and the Rural Dean will share a few thoughts on our faith and celebrations.

Following the service, a member of the Lavenham congregation, Graham Patrick, will conduct a tour of the beautiful and ancient Lavenham Church and a member of the congregation at Preston St Mary, Deanery Synod Rep Robin Lloyd Hughes will give a short talk on Lavenham Airfield and its part in World War II.

There will also be a tour of Lavenham by one of the Lavenham Guides who is also a member of the congregation at Lavenham. You might think you know Lavenham, or you might only know Lavenham as somewhere on the way to Sudbury, but Malcolm will show you things you've never noticed and tell you things you really didn't know.... After that, we suggest a nice rest in one of the many tea shops and cafés, or maybe a browse in one of the lovely shops or a spot of lunch before returning home refreshed in body and spirit.

However you spend the morning, we would be glad if you joined us in the Deanery Church of St Peter & Paul, Lavenham for praise, communion and fellowship on this Ascension Day. Please let Sharon know if you'd like to attend (for catering purposes) so that she can send numbers to the organisers.

Cockfield Benefice Services and events May 2024

Sunday 5 May Easter 6	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham
Thursday 9 May Ascension Day	8am Songs of Praise at the top of Lavenham Church Tower followed by breakfast at 8.30am 10am Holy Communion at Lavenham Church
Saturday 11 May Messy Church	 <p>3-5pm at Felsham Village Hall For all children accompanied by parent(s)/guardian(s) (contact Rev Canon Sharon for more details at revsharon2@gmail.com)</p>
Saturday 11 May	7pm The 'Emergers' concert at Cockfield Church (contact Sue Cole on 01284 828212 for more details)
Sunday 12 May Easter 7	10am Morning Prayer - Cockfield 10.30am Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 16 May	2-4pm Village Friends - over 65's club at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 19 May Pentecost	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 25 May	10am-12.30pm Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at Cockfield Church
Sunday 26 May Trinity Sunday	9.30am Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George

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 information contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or 07825086063