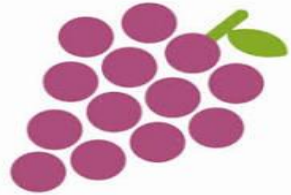


REACHING OUT

from the Cockfield Benefice

Parish Churches serving the villages of:

Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St George w
Lt Whelnetham, Bradfield Combust,
Cockfield, Felsham, Gedding,
Gt Whelnetham & Stanningfield



August 2025
Issue 128

From the Rector's desk:

The fields around us are being harvested, and thankfully we've had a bit of rain lately for our parched gardens! The cycle of life continues at what seems to be a much faster pace - but that's probably just a sign of my age.

We are now well into Ordinary Time in our lectionary season (the lectionary is the list of prescribed Bible readings for each Sunday service throughout the year). We don't always use these readings, as some of our services are based on themes - such as our monthly Worshipping Together service at Bradfield St George. But we stay in Ordinary Time until we reach harvest time in September/October. This year we are concentrating on Luke's gospel, and the first gospel that I read as a teenager which convinced me to become a follower of Jesus, and to begin attending church regularly.

Growing up I was used to the same service every week at my local Anglican Church. I think that we are very lucky here in the benefice to be able to provide a variety of services - formal and informal - throughout the seasons of the year. However, it's always good to review the services after a while, and our Benefice Council and PCCs will be doing this as part of our growth plans.

cont./

We shall be especially considering how we can improve our services to become even more welcoming and hospitable. If you have any comments on how we can do this - please don't hesitate to drop me a line!

Hospitality is a great theme in our Scriptures as Jesus often met with people over a meal, and of course we remember the last supper that Jesus had with his disciples every time we hold a communion service.

As we move into the month of August, when we hope that the sun will shine for our children as they enjoy their summer holidays (and of course all the school staff too), I hope that you will also have some time to relax and take time away from your daily routine.

In whatever way you do that, may God bless you and your families.

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter, Rector, Cockfield Benefice
revsharon2@gmail.com, tel: 01284 828599, 07825 086063

Leading Our Churches into Growth

We are moving on with our Plans for Growth. The ministry team has met to develop the plans we began at the Leading your Church into Growth weekend in June, and we shall begin to share these with the Benefice Council and PCCs in August. We hope that you will also join in with our prayers for growth in our parishes, and pray the prayer that is printed below every week in your own prayers!



God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church.

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning. Wisdom to our actions.

Joy to our worship. And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Big Green Challenge for August

2024 was the hottest year ever recorded on Earth and the first calendar year to exceed the 1.5°C warming threshold. In fact, the global average temperature during 2024 was 1.6°C above the estimate of the pre-industrial level.

For some this is a matter of life and death. Heat-related mortality for people over 65 years of age increased by approximately 85% between 2000–2004 and 2017–2021 according to the World Health Organisation. Globally, extreme temperature events are observed to be increasing in their frequency, duration, and magnitude. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of people exposed to heatwaves increased by around 125 million.

While the effects of heat may be exacerbated in cities, due to the urban heat island (UHI) effect, the livelihoods and well-being of non-urban communities can also be severely disrupted during and after periods of unusually hot weather.

Heatwaves can burden health and emergency services and increase strain on water, energy and transportation resulting in power shortages or even blackouts. Food and livelihood security may also be strained if people lose their crops or livestock due to extreme heat.

If we are to prevent increasing death tolls from extreme heat we need to end the burning of fossil fuels rapidly, plant many more trees, increase public awareness of extreme heat, build better housing that stays cooler and prepare our towns and cities for more of these events.

Rev Richard

SEWING REPAIRS

Continuing a family tradition of dressmaking I am willing to take on repair jobs. Estimates will not vary. All proceeds go to "Blue Cross", who are overwhelmed by pet owners unable to afford sky-rocketing vets bills, or simply paying for food. Contact: Jan McLaren, tel: 01284 377046.



Village Friends August 2025

The August meeting of our over 65's group welcomes the Barn Owls Choir this month who will be singing 'Songs of the World' - songs from many countries will be included. Come along and listen and enjoy!
2-4pm at Felsham Village Hall. All welcome.
Free entry - including refreshments.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025

As the world heats up farmers around the world are struggling with droughts and floods on an unprecedented scale. Those in developed countries like ours can mitigate the worst effects and governments help with flood barriers and other interventions. In poorer developing countries there are not the resources available for this, so farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to make a living and feed their families.

Fairtrade gives farmers a fair price for what they produce and a little extra for their communities so that they can take measures to mitigate some of the effects of climate change. Planting trees helps to provide shade for coffee bushes and cacao trees, so they are a little cooler and not scorched by the sun. Trees help to absorb water and hold the soil together in times of flood. Farmers are also able to use the premium to send their children to school and college or provide medical services in their villages.

Fairtrade products are widely available in supermarkets and buying them can make a real difference to the lives of many poor people around the world. Our faith teaches us that we must 'let justice and fairness flow like a river that never runs dry' (Amos 5:24). We are called to help those who don't get a fair deal and every Fairtrade item we can buy will make a difference.

Fairtrade Fortnight is from the 22 September – 05 October, so why not try some Fairtrade products you don't usually buy?

Your purchase could make a difference to someone's life. Christ commanded us to love our neighbour and buying Fairtrade is a great way to do just that.

Rev Richard

Foodbank Donations

As schools are on summer break we know that many families will struggle with the provision of healthy and filling meals. If you are able to give something to our foodbank donations then please get in touch or leave something in the plastic boxes at the back of our churches. Here's a list of what our local foodbanks need (and don't need as there is already a huge stock of these items) as a reminder.

Breakfast cereal	No thank you	Milk (UHT and powdered)	✓
Biscuits	✓	Pasta (dried)	No thank you
Baked beans (tins)	✓	Pasta sauce (jar)	✓
Coffee	✓	Rice Pudding (tins)	✓
Fish/tuna (tins)	✓	Soup (tins & packets)	✓
Fruit (tins)	✓	Sugar	✓
Fruit squash drink	✓	Tinned tomatoes	✓
Orange Juice (carton)	✓	Tea bags	✓
Meat (tins)	✓	Vegetables (tins)	✓

We would also appreciate food for our harvest festivals that will be happening late September/early October which will also be donated to the local foodbanks.



Messy Church Goes Wild at Bishop's Farm, Bradfield St Clare!

On a very hot Saturday in July Cockfield Messy Church descended en masse on Bishop's Farm, BSC! The afternoon started with a trailer ride around the farm which was greatly enjoyed by all—both children and adults. In spite of the heat there was a cooling breeze, for which we were all very grateful.

Arriving back in the farmyard, families went off to find the various activities dotted around the farm in shady spots. These activities included creating a collage from grasses collected from around the farm, going on a scavenger hunt, creating a memory stick,



The trailer ride around the farm



Our youngest member making her grass collage

cloud spotting and identifying (yes, there were some) creating a picture using the 'cyanotype' method (an early form of photography) and listening to the sounds in a rather remote corner of a field. Probably the most popular activities were searching for and looking at insects under cow pats and looking at them through a phone microscope! I'm not sure who enjoyed that the most—adults or children.

We then clambered back onto the trailer to listen to Rev Richard interview Farmer Mike about his 'regenerative farming' approach to agriculture. This is concerned with working with nature to enrich the soil naturally rather than using artificial fertilisers. He then went on to explain that if we work with God in our lives its so much better than going our own way, based on Joel 2 v 21-27.

We then sampled the fruits of Dick's slaving over a hot BBQ all afternoon! This was followed by strawberries, cake and plenty to drink.



The BBQ

Many grateful thanks to Lorraine and Mike for making us so welcome at the farm for a lovely afternoon.

The next Messy Church is on Saturday September 13 at the West Suffolk Hive in Bradfield St George.

Please pray for the work of Messy Church and the families who come or who have been in the past.

Christine Stainer

**The Cockfield Benefice
presents
Hugh Morrison
author of
the 'Rev Shaw Mysteries'**

At Cockfield Village Hall

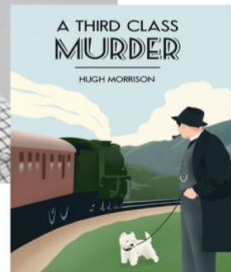
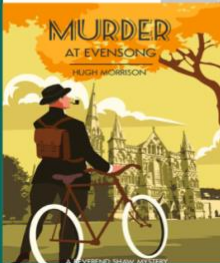
On Saturday 27th September

7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £15 per person

(inc. a glass of wine/soft drink)

contact revsharon2@gmail.com for more details
or visit www.eventbrite.co.uk to book a ticket online



Simply Saxophones

Don't forget that there will be an hours concert of saxophone music at St Peter's Church, Cockfield on **Saturday 2 August** from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Free entry, wine and nibbles on offer and donations will be gratefully accepted!

Cockfield Benefice Services and **Events** - August 2025

Saturday 2 August	2pm-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome!
Saturday 2 August	5.30pm-6.30pm Simply Saxaphones & Guests at St Peter's, Cockfield. Free entry (donations welcome)
Sunday 3 August Trinity 7	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 3pm Holy Baptism at Gt Whelnetham 6pm Celtic Communion at Felsham
Sunday 10 August Trinity 8	10am Morning Prayer at Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship at Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 12 August	11am Holy Communion followed by sandwiches & coffee at St Peter's, Felsham
Sunday 17 August Trinity 9	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion at St Peter, Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 21 August	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall - all welcome. This month we welcome the Barn Owls Choir.
Sunday 24 August Trinity 10	9.30am Holy Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 31 August Trinity 11	10.30am Benefice Communion at Bradfield St Clare

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