

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



September 2025
Issue 129

From the Rector's desk:

I write this as I prepare to return from my annual summer holiday which gave me some well needed rest and recuperation. I have not had a lot of news in for this month's 'Reaching Out' as I suspect many people have been having a break - so it's a shortened version this month! Hopefully there will be more to say in October's issue!

I would like to say thank you to those who have written to me with suggestions about how we can improve on our hospitality at our services within the benefice. There have been some very good suggestions which the ministry team and our PCC's will certainly consider.

As we press on with our plan for growth, I hope that many of you will continue to pray for growth - if you haven't got a copy of the 'Leading your Church into Growth' prayer card then please do ask for one, or you should find one at the back of your local church. If you don't find one, it is reproduced below - and you can also find it on the weekly pew sheet at our services.

Prayer is at the heart of our Christian life - and I would encourage everyone to pray regularly - for anything and everything! There is so much to pray about in our world today with all that is going on.

I am reminded of a quote from that great Theologian Karl Barth which goes like this: "Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." As Christians we should be aware of

what is going on in our world, but to look at world events and politics through the lens of our faith and to pray for all those involved in difficult situations.

I hope that September will be a month of mellow fruitfulness for us all, and as we look forward to our harvest celebrations (beginning with Bradfield St Clare's festival at Bishop's Farm at the end of September) may we all renew our commitment to caring for God's earth in this Season of Creation.

Sharon

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Prayer for Growth

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.

Village Friends September 2025

We shall be playing Bingo at the September meeting of our over 65's group,

2-4pm at Felsham Village Hall. All welcome. Free entry -

including refreshments. For a lift to the meeting please contact Canon Sharon.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2025

Last month Rev Richard wrote about Fairtrade Fortnight, so this is a reminder that it begins on 22 September and runs through to 05 October.

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.

Why not try some fairtrade teabags as a starter? Tea is the most popular drink worldwide, after water, with over 100 million cups being drunk daily in the UK. But it comes at a cost for those who produce it for us - which just isn't fair.

The Christian faith teaches us that justice and fairness is what our God wants from us - so buying fairtrade products is one way of achieving this.

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

At Cockfield Village Hall

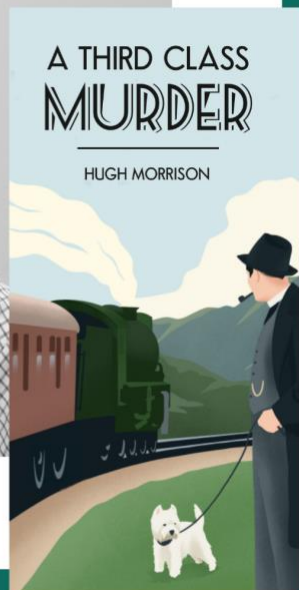
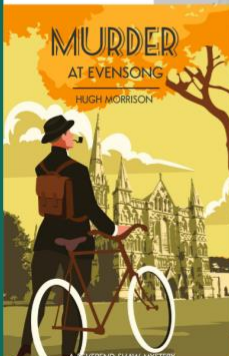
On Saturday 27th September

7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £15 per person

(inc. a glass of wine/soft drink and nibbles)

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



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

Saturday 6 September	2pm-4pm Knit'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome!
Sunday 7 September Trinity 12	9.30am Holy Communion at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion at St Peter, Felsham
Tuesday 9 September	11am Holy Communion at Felsham, St Peter followed by sandwiches and coffee
Saturday 13 September	Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride and Stride - Churches in the benefice are all open for visitors
Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers Messy Church has had to be cancelled.	
Sunday 14 September Trinity 13	10am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 21 September Trinity 14	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at St Peter, Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion at St Peter, Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Friday 26 September	6pm Harvest Thanksgiving at Bishop's Farm, Bradfield St Clare, IP30 0PW
Saturday 27 September	Cockfield Benefice presents Hugh Morrison, author of the Rev Shaw mysteries at Cockfield Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm. £15 a ticket including a glass of wine and nibbles. Visit www.eventbrite.com for more details.
Sunday 28 September Trinity 15	9.30am Holy Communion at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George

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.*