

Meridian Benefice

People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God
Luke 13:29

THE HERALD

The Herald is a bi-monthly newsletter from the Meridian Benefice; the parish churches of Bluntisham cum Earith, Colne and Holywell cum Needingworth

Your Church needs you!

Congregations in the three churches give generously to their church and this money goes to pay its 'Parish Share' which amongst other things is used to support the maintenance of the buildings, the payment of clergy, training, support for the ongoing mission to reach people with the love of Christ, education, administration and legal support, care for retired staff and support for churches in poorer areas and abroad. Also out of that giving come the funds for everyday expenses to run the churches and to put on events or host groups, and indeed print the Herald – and also to give to various external charities.

We realise that our communities value our churches, many like coming to events and to special services especially at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Many have been married in them, had children baptised, or said goodbye to a loved one in them. They have been hubs of village life for a long time and many feel a connection even if they don't regularly attend.

Could you help support your parish church and its work? Even a small amount monthly would make a difference – especially if you can Gift Aid it – then for every £4 you gave, your church would receive £5.

For Colne and HcN, please go to www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ and use your postcode or the name of the church you wish to support to set up regular giving, or, for BCE, contact a Churchwarden or the Treasurer.

Thank you

Dear Readers,

What a joy it is to be able to communicate with you through this newsletter. It gives me the opportunity to say thank you to everyone in the Meridian Benefice who support our five villages in their various ways – through churches, community halls and the many other community developments that you promote.

Winter brings with it a period of hibernation when plants lose their leaves and everything becomes dull and lifeless. It is a thankless season, with its rainy days and cold weather, and it means we can no longer enjoy the pleasures of our gardens. But when spring arrives and temperatures rise, we need to go back to work – aerating, scarifying, weeding, fertilizing, and re-planting.

“Be patient then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains”.

James 5.6

We know that we too sometimes feel dry, lifeless and empty. We feel arid, just like the earth – not living life to the full, but just existing. How can we scarify our own lives so that the sun and the warm temperatures help us to resist adversity? Do we have strong roots, like the trees, so that we can face life with all its complexities? We don't have the power to control everything or to receive all we that we would like. We know that not everything always goes the way we would hope for. But that is life!

Many of you may remember the passage from the Bible relating to the lilies of the field in Matthew 6:28


“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you- you of little faith?”

Do we spend so much time 'toiling and spinning', worrying about things that we cannot change, that we prevent ourselves from enjoying the simple pleasures of life? Just as the plants continue to come alive, offering us their beautiful colours and rich fruits, may we seek a new experience every day to bring us joy and happiness. The seasons come and go, and it is at this time of the year that we can enjoy the wonders of nature which surround us.



I have been happy to meet so many of our readers as well as those who contribute to our churches. I hope to meet many more of you at informal everyday meetings, as well as at church celebrations.


Revd Valmor Pimenta



You are warmly invited
to a
Garden Party
Rectory, Bluntisham
2pm - 6pm Saturday July 13th

Please bring a dish to share, barbecue burgers and sausages will be provided.

A chance to come together as a community.





We warmly invite you to
St Mary's Church Hall
Bluntisham cum Earith

Community
Coffee

Family-friendly
Good Coffee, Good Company,
Delicious cakes!

Open from 10am—12pm
First Saturday of the
month (except August)



Services in June and July 2024 across the Benefice

Contact one of the churchwardens listed below if you want further information about any of the three churches

Vicar: Revd Valmor Pimenta, The Rectory, Rectory Road, Bluntisham, PE28 3LN, vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk, 07950 897771
'God Loves Mission'

Meridian Benefice Office contact 01487 829882

For all enquiries about weddings, baptisms (christenings), confirmation, home Communion or visits, please contact Revd Valmor. For funerals of residents of any of the three parishes, in church and/or at a crematorium, contact Stephen York (as below)

	St Mary Bluntisham cum Earith	St Helen Colne	St John the Baptist Holywell cum Needingworth
	Churchwardens: Peter Brace (07727 064138) David Findlow (07905 568115) bce@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Beverley Barlow (01487 840223) Robert Major (01487 841900) colne@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Michael Williamson (01480 465821) Stephen York (07768 924249) hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk
Sunday 2 June	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship 4-5:30pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Café Sunday Needingworth Village Hall
Saturday 8 June		6pm: Benefice Gathering 'The man behind the collar.'	
Sunday 9 June	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 16 June	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: All Age Service
Thursday 20 June			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Friday 21 June			6pm: Well-blessing Service
Sunday 23 June	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Morning Worship
Sunday 30 June	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Summer 'Songs of Praise' If anyone would like a particular favourite hymn, to be considered for inclusion, (and the reason why), please contact Bev Barlow by midday Saturday 15th June.	9:30am: Special Service
Sunday 7 July	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship 4-5:30pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Café Sunday Needingworth Village Hall 2pm: Baptism
Saturday 13 July	2pm: Benefice Barbecue, Bluntisham, The Rectory		
Sunday 14 July	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) 12:30pm: Baptism
Wednesday 17 July			3pm: Wedding
Sunday 21 July	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	10am: All Age Service
Thursday 18 July			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Sunday 28 July	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Morning Worship

St Helen's Church, Colne, Saturday 8th June, 6pm - 7:30pm - Benefice Gathering - Come and meet 'The man behind the collar'

The distinctive clerical collar is usually one of the first things you notice about a priest. However, be they bishops, rectors or vicars, they often have an interesting story about how they were called into ministry and began to wear the collar, indeed few can have a more interesting backstory than our Meridian Benefice's new vicar Valmor Pimenta.

His family moved from Verona, Italy, to Brazil where Valmor was born. Later, they returned to Italy. When he was thirteen years old, he discovered his vocation to be a priest and eventually, after studying in America and Europe, he graduated in Philosophy and Theology. In 2003 Valmor was ordained as priest. He has lived in the UK for the past ten years and is a British citizen.

In March 2024, two months after his marriage to Thais, Valmor Alves Pimenta became vicar of the Meridian Benefice.

If you would like to hear more from the man himself, then join us on Saturday 8th June from 6pm until 7:30pm when you can hear Valmor tell his own story and you can, of course, ask any questions you may have, while enjoying light refreshments.

All are welcome.



HISTORY OF MEDICINE 1800 – 1945

From Quacks and Charlatans to the start of the NHS – enjoy a journey through time studying the development of medicine in Britain. Experience disease, surgery, war, dentistry and much more. Discover how fortunate you are to be a patient in the 21st Century!

Tutor: Mike Muncaster
Fee: £50

Autumn term course

Begins Monday 16th September 2024 for 10 weeks
At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ 10.00am to 11.45am



To enrol, contact Marie Quick on 07905 911558
or email marie_quick358@hotmail.com

Book early to avoid disappointment.
Try out the first session free.



Songs from the Shows

A Summer Concert by the
Meridian Choir and guests

Saturday 13th July at 7pm
At BLUNTISHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Tickets £10 at the door

Children under 16 FREE

Includes light refreshments

Profits from our concerts this year are going to the local
Arthur Rank Hospice and Caring Together charities.



2024

VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 15 June 2024

Needingworth Village Hall

Open to the public from 1 pm
Admission free

ENTER NOW!

List of classes and guide for exhibitors
available from:

VillageShow@flagholme.net

<https://hencgardening.weebly.com/annual-show-2023.html>
Local businesses (Queen's Head, Ferry Boat Inn, One Stop,
Chatters Community Cafe)
Hawthorn Cottage, Holywell; 15A High Street, Needingworth



Colne Strawberry Tea with Pimm's

St Helen's Church, Colne

Saturday 29 June

2-4pm

Everyone Welcome

Please support this fund-raising event to
aid the purchasing of a new lawn mower

Each week, Revd. Valmor would
like to invite you to join him for
Holy hour, Pastoral care.

Tuesdays, 12-2pm: Pastoral
hours, St John the Baptist, HcN

Wednesdays, 12pm: Pastoral
hour, St Helen's Church, Colne

Thursdays, 12pm: Communion,
St Mary, BcE

Could you volunteer to be a governor at our school?



Would you like to help shape the future
of education in our village?

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Do you have any skills you can offer?



We are looking for local people with experience of board
meetings and/or strategic planning and an interest in
helping our young people to achieve their potential.

"Pupils are happy at
this welcoming,
village school.
They enjoy learning
and playing together"

6 evening meetings per year are the opportunity to
enquire, challenge and support the school.

Opportunities are encouraged throughout the
year to find out what happens in school, speak
with teachers and students within an area of
interest to monitor and develop the school.



Full training is provided.
Interested? Call 01487 841468
chair@st-helens.cambs.sch.uk
www.sthelensprimary.org

St John the Baptist Church
Holywell-cum-Needingworth welcomes you to the

2024 Well Dressing & Flower Festival

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF
GIRL GUIDING IN NEEDINGWORTH

Friday 21st June - Sunday 23rd June

Friday 6 pm Service and blessing of the well
followed by refreshments

Saturday 12-4 pm

Flower Festival, stalls, teas, competitions, plants, raffle

Sunday 2-5 pm

Flower Festival and teas

3-5 pm

Campfire singalong in the churchyard. All welcome!

St John the Baptist church and Girlguiding Needingworth warmly invite you to
celebrate 70 Years of Girlguiding in Needingworth at the annual well dressing
and flower festival, Friday 21 June to Sunday 23 June.



A number of activities will be held during the weekend, details on the poster,
in the Villager and on Facebook. If you come along, please wear one or more
of your Guiding badges, we will be encouraging the children to look for these and ask
about them.

Do you have a photo of yourself as a Brownie or Guide and a recent photo you would be
willing to provide as part of a competition to pair them up? Janet at 11 Hawkes Lane
Needingworth would love to hear from you!

We look forward to welcoming you at this special event.

Holywell churchyard Garden of Remembrance

Visitors to the Garden, where the ashes of former parishioners are interred, will have
noticed that its surrounding hedge has totally died off after an attack by the box moth
caterpillar last year. The church is planning to replace the hedge later in the year with a
new species not vulnerable to caterpillars.

Before we can do this, we need to dig up the dead hedging. This will be a big task and
we would like to hear from any able-bodied villagers who would be willing to lend a hand
with the work, at some time over this summer.

If you feel you can help, please contact Stephen York 07768
924249, hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk.

We would love to hear from anyone who could deliver copies of the Herald to their neighbours. Contact Stephen York: 01480 465120

WHAT'S ON

EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE

June and July 2024

1st Earith, Bluntisham & Colne Scout

Group: Each section meets weekly in term time. Cubs (8-10½ yrs) Mondays 6:30-8pm; Scouts (10½-14 yrs) Tuesdays 7-8:30pm; Beavers (6-8 yrs) Thursdays 6:15-7:30pm; Squirrels (4-6yrs) Mondays 5-6pm. If you would like to offer help, or for your child to join our waiting list please email Charlotte Beattie (Scout Leader) on scouts@1st-ebc-scouts.org.uk

1st Needingworth Brownies: We meet regularly in Needingworth on Tuesday evenings for girls aged 7-9 years old. For more details contact Julie Swindells on needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com

1st Needingworth Rainbows: Our friendly group of girls meet on Tuesdays in Needingworth for 4-7 year olds. Contact: Helen Whitehead 01480 460838 needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com

1st Needingworth Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Wednesdays 6-7:30pm, contact NeedingworthCub-Scouts@hotmail.com;
Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact skip1stneedingworth@gmail.com
We are always looking for adult volunteers and would like to hear from you on gsf1stneedingworth@outlook.com . If we can get volunteers we would be very interested in restarting Beavers.

14-90 Table Tennis Club: A friendly club for all abilities, every Monday, 7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Bluntisham cum Earith. Contact Will 01487 840223

Beacon Cafe: Wednesdays, 2-4:30 pm, in Bluntisham Baptist Church Hall. Relax in a warm and welcoming, child-friendly, café environment. We serve fresh teas and coffees, hot chocolate, soft drinks and delicious homemade cakes.

Bluntisham and Colne WI:

First Thursday in the month, Colne Village Hall 7:30pm.
6th June: Papworth Brewery tour.
4th July: Millinery Magic with Alison Cooper. Further information from Diane 01487 840431. Non-members welcome for a small charge.

Bluntisham Social Badminton Club:

play at Bluntisham Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 8-10pm. Contact: Lynne lynne.dowell@btinternet.com

Bugs 2 ukulele group: meets 2:30pm on Tuesday afternoons at The Baptist Church Hall, Bluntisham. If you like to sing and would like to try your hand at playing the ukulele, no need to read music, just come along and give it a go. Please contact margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com.

Music Makers



Come and make music with us

For pre-school children accompanied by an adult

10-11am

Needingworth Village Hall

Thursday 13 June, 11 July

St Helen's Church, Colne

Thursday 27 June, 25 July

Further details:

Carole Mills, 07788 925708,
or Wendy George, 07753 718918

Colne Caring Community (3Cs):

Everyone is welcome. Meetings are 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. 2-4pm at Colne Village Hall. If you need our help or would just like to chat with us please give us a call on our dedicated phone: 07714 528537.

Community Coffee: 1st Saturday of the month, St. Mary's Church, Bluntisham cum Earith 10-12pm. Come and enjoy wonderful homemade cakes whilst sipping your fresh tea and coffee. Family-friendly with gluten and dairy-free options.

Colne Koalas: We are hoping to restart in September!

Earith WI: Has now closed; please see entry for Third Thursday Club.

Friday Art Group: Small friendly group who meet in Needingworth Village Hall 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. 01480 465536 patpaulmiller@btinternet.com

Holywell cum Needingworth Garden-

ing Club: Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month in Needingworth Village Hall, 8pm. Many outings, activities and competitions planned. For latest information visit www.hcngardening.weebly.com.

Holywell cum Needingworth Good

Neighbours: Anyone needing our help or wishing to become a volunteer please contact Helen, Ruth or Cheryl on 07794 680475.

Holywell cum Needingworth WI: 1st Monday of the month (not Bank Holidays - then it's the 2nd Monday), Needingworth Village Hall, 7:30pm.

3rd June: Robin Bletso will dispense some of his considerable gardening knowledge alongside a 'Posy in a pot' competition. 1st July: Annual garden party in a member's

garden (Village Hall if wet). New members or visitors are always welcome at our meetings. For more information please contact Carol Peilow on 01480 496958.

Maggies miss-fits: The exercise classes for the active retired at The Baptist Church Hall, Bluntisham Thursdays 9:45am and Victory Hall, Somersham, Tuesdays 10am. Contact Margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com

Men's Group: This lively and supportive group meets every Tuesday evening with occasional talks, outings and meals. Contact Tim Berry 01487 842129

Meridian Singers: Rehearsals in Bluntisham Baptist Church every Wednesday from 7:30pm - 9pm during term time. Everyone is welcome and there are no auditions. For more information call Ann on 01480 495272 or visit our website www.meridiansingers.com.

Needingworth Beer and Wine Society:

Meets in the pavilion every 3rd Friday in the month 8-10pm: petronellaseb@gmail.com.

Needingworth Bowls Club:

We are hoping that the better weather is coming. We are well into the new outdoor bowls season; so why not come and give our sport a go? Just come along 2pm Tuesdays. We hope to see you at the club this summer. For details ring Alan 07368 422 241.

Third Thursday Club: Rector's Hall, Colne Road, Earith. Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month, except August. For more information please contact Margaret 01487 841397.

Walking with Friends: A friendly group with a different walk each Friday morning (in Cambridgeshire) of approximately 5 to 7 miles. Contact John 01487 740075 to find out more and join us.

St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

March 200 club winner		
£100	Mrs. V.R Norman	No 27
April 200 club winners		
£25	Mrs. L. Dawson	No 8
£10	Mrs. J. Atherton	No 109
£10	Mr. P Ford	No 111

The 200 Club costs £13.00 per year and you could win £100 (twice a year) or £25 or £10 (ten times a year.)
Call Sue Dawson 07761 57 06 07 for more information.

The Herald: editor Eleanor Brown, email: herald@meridianbenefice.org.uk

Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by email, or if you have something you would like to include in the Herald.
Deadline for entry to the August / September edition is Friday 19th July 2024