

# 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



## St Ives Deanery Confirmation Service

7pm

16th May

St Mary's Church,  
Bluntisham cum Earith

If you would like  
to be confirmed,  
please contact the Vicar.

## Meridian Benefice Pilgrimage to Ely Cathedral 31st May 2025

All villagers of our three parishes are welcome to join us. Please contact your local churchwardens if you wish to arrange a car-share.

Driving to Ely to arrive 10 am.

- ▶ Coffee at 10:15 at the Canon Residential location
- ▶ Departure by private cars from parish churches: 9:30 am
- ▶ Arrival for coffee: 10:15 am
- ▶ Pilgrimage Tour of Ely Cathedral: 10:45 am-12:30 pm
- ▶ Pilgrimage Eucharist at St Etheldreda's Chapel: 12:30-1:15 pm



We are living in an uncertain world with much political turmoil and social change. It is easy for us to be overwhelmed by the worries that this brings, but as we turn from the darkness of winter into the lightness of spring, our hearts are uplifted when we see the signs of new life in the fields and hedgerows and our gardens begin to come alive again.

It is good for us to sometimes pause in our busy lives to marvel at the wonders of nature all around us and to take comfort in the certainties of the rhythms of life – the fact that day follows night, spring follows winter, and the tides of the sea ebb and flow.

Indeed, enjoying the beauty of nature is known to be good for our mental health and taking a walk through beautiful countryside is especially enjoyable; even driving through it is apparently beneficial and for those who are housebound; watching nature programmes on television can be therapeutic. The number of children suffering from depression has risen in recent years and one of the things that really helps, is to encourage children to enjoy the great outdoors rather than spending so much time inside.

As the church enters the season of Lent, we share in Christ's suffering on the cross. Christians believe that the darkness of the cross was overcome by the love of God for his people, and that goodness overcame evil. So we look forward to the joy of Easter when we celebrate his victory over the cross.

But for many, the darkness in their lives is difficult to bear. Loneliness, bereavement, and financial worries are just some of the things which affect many people's mental health.

The greatest need for people of all ages is human contact. Social media and television programmes are no substitute for this. Modern society makes for far less social contact than in the past – banks and post-offices closing, less and less manned tills in supermarkets - these all help to cause isolation. Some people simply long for some company – a chance just to talk to someone. There must be many in our community who feel like this. May we all acknowledge the suffering of those around us and resolve to find ways to show them the spirit of human kindness.

The churches in our villages are there to support you. Together, let us try to shine some light into their darkness so that we can all help to make the world a better place. Then we can truly say the words of Psalm 118v25

*"This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"*



May I wish you all a very Happy Easter and invite you to join us in our Easter services.

Revd Valmor

### Men, do you enjoy a hearty breakfast?

If you do, then read on! We are privileged to have Paul Gask who works as a regional director for the national movement, Christian Vision for Men (CVM), come and talk to us. "Gasky" will join us for this sumptuous breakfast event at St. Helen's church, Colne on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 9.00-10.30am. Gasky states that "35 years working in the Police force has taught me one or two things about blokes!"



We invite you to come along and join a lively and supportive group of guys who absolutely enjoy food. At the same time, you can hear all about Gasky's gritty and hard-hitting story of his encounter with the risen Lord at a point in his life when he was on the cusp of taking it!

If you would like to come along or would like further information about this inspiring event, then please contact either Richard Waller on 01487 843196 or Tim Berry on 01487 842129.



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 April and May 2025 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)

	<b>St Mary Bluntisham cum Earith</b> <small>(church open 9am-5pm)</small>	<b>St Helen Colne</b> <small>(church open during daylight hours)</small>	<b>St John the Baptist Holywell cum Needingworth</b>
	Churchwarden: Peter Brace (07727 064138) <b>bce@meridianbenefice.org.uk</b>	Churchwardens: Beverley Barlow (01487 840223) Robert Major (01487 841900) <b>colne@meridianbenefice.org.uk</b>	Churchwardens: Michael Williamson (01480 465821) Stephen York (07768 924249) <b>hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk</b>
Sunday 6 April	11am: Holy Communion followed by APCM  5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship  4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP)  9:30am: Morning Worship
Tuesday 8 April			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 13 April <b>Palm Sunday</b>	11am: Holy Communion  5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service  7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Monday 14 April			7pm: Holy Monday Service
Tuesday 15 April			7pm: Holy Tuesday Service
Wednesday 16 April		7pm: Taizé Service	
Thursday 17 April	7:30pm: Maundy Thursday		
Friday 18 April <b>Good Friday</b>	10am: Walk of Witness (See Below) 11am: Reflective Service	10am: Walk of Witness (See Below)	10am: Walk of Witness (See Below)  3pm: Good Friday Service
Saturday 19 April		7pm: Holy Saturday - Service of Hope	
Sunday 20 April <b>Easter</b>	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Holy Communion	5:30: Dawn Communion  9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Monday 21 April	11:30am Baptism		
Thursday 24 April			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Sunday 27 April	11am: Holy Communion  5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) followed by APCM
Sunday 4 May	11am: Holy Communion  5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship  4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP)  9:30am: Morning Worship
Tuesday 6 May			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 11 May	11am: Holy Communion  5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service  7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Friday 16th May	7pm: Deanery of St Ives Confirmation Service		
Sunday 18 May	11am: Morning Worship  5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship
Thursday 22 May			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Saturday 24 May			6pm: Benefice Gathering
Sunday 25 May	11am: Holy Communion  5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion
Thursday 29 May	12pm: Ascension Day Service		7:30pm: Ascension Day Service
<b>Holy Hour, Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Thursdays 12pm:</b> Holy Communion		<b>Tuesdays 12pm:</b> Morning Prayer / Holy Communion (CW) and Pastoral Visiting

### Good Friday Walk of Witness:

Aim to arrive at St Mary's Church, Bluntisham cum Earith at 10:30-10:45am for refreshments and 11am service.

**North Route:** Leave Cranbrooke Nursery at 9:15am prompt; join at St Helen's Church, Colne at 10am for a shorter walk.

**East Route:** Leave Earith Bridge, near sluice, at 10am.

**South Route:** Leave St John the Baptist church, Holywell at 10am, walking through Needingworth.

## OPEN STUDIO & GARDEN

Browse the work of **SUE EDDY**  
in watercolour and acrylics.

Landscapes, seascapes and lots more!

Pingles Farm, Holme Fen Drive,  
Colne, PE28 3RE

24th, 25th, 26th May, 10am - 5pm

*Homemade refreshments for sale.*

*Free admission. Ample parking.*

*All welcome.*



This year sees a special anniversary of the bells at Holywell-cum-Needingworth, which will be the theme of the 2025 Well-dressing.

**On 24 May, 5pm at St John the Baptist church**, there will be a talk by Roger Beaman, our Tower Captain, with refreshments, to which everyone is welcome. Roger explains:

"This year is the 400th anniversary of the oldest three bells in the tower at St John the Baptist church. To put that date into some perspective, the Pilgrims had settled in what is now called America just 5 years before and the start of the English Civil War was 17 years later. The bells, which over the years were increased to the current six, have been ringing out over the centuries. During that time campanology (the art or skill of ringing bells) has developed and the bells at Holywell are a popular choice for many bell ringers in the area. But many people have little idea as to what is involved with bell ringing. This evening is an excellent opportunity to learn much more about how the bells are rung; what is 'full circle' or 'English change' ringing; what is a 'method'; and what the basis is for a 'full peal'. We will have a band of experienced ringers on-hand to demonstrate their art. We are planning an informative and enjoyable evening and look forward to welcoming anyone who is interested to know more about the Holywell bells."



Cambridgeshire School celebrates 150 years of Education

Holywell Church of England Primary School in Needingworth, Cambridgeshire is celebrating this massive milestone this summer.

The village school which originally opened in 1875 has gone through many changes over the years but still remains the heart of the community and has recently been rated "Good" by Ofsted.

Celebration ideas for the anniversary include a special birthday assembly with the Bishop of Huntingdon in attendance, a Victorian street party, a commemorative school magazine featuring interviews with past pupils and staff, a Victorian themed sports day and summer fair and a school competition organised by the local Yarn Bombers group.

The school have also set themselves the massive challenge of redeveloping a piece of land on the school site into a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which involves a fundraising target of £40,000. We have managed to secure a grant from Living Sport and are being supported by the parish council, school and pre-school committees and currently have around £26,000.

We are looking for help raising the remaining £14,000 so would ask local residents and businesses to please visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/holywellschool150thann](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/holywellschool150thann) and donate whatever they can. Anyone who donates over £250 will be offered the chance to have a plaque near the court as a thank you.

After a century and half of educating children from the local villages it would be great to leave the legacy of this new outdoor area for the children to enjoy in the future

For further information please visit [www.holywellprimary.co.uk](http://www.holywellprimary.co.uk) or contact;

Victoria Goldsmith, Head of Holywell School Association, [vegoldsmith@gmail.com](mailto:vegoldsmith@gmail.com), 07840 365037

Paul Baddeley, Head of Holywell Church of England Primary School, [head@holywell.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:head@holywell.cambs.sch.uk), 01480 462007



**HOLYWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL 150TH  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

The School are looking to create a MUGA (multi use games area) as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations this summer

The school have secured grants from Living Sport and are being supported by the parish council, school and pre-school committees and currently have around £26,000

We would also like to ask the local community and businesses to help us reach our total goal of £40,000 by scanning this QR code



or visiting  
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/holywellschool150thann>

- Spare time?
- Retiring soon?
- No longer fully employed?
- Skill to share?
- Retirement planning?

**u3a**

**OPEN DAY**

**APRIL 29<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm**

**ST IVES**

**CORN EXCHANGE**

Find out how 900 members in St Ives organise and enjoy interest groups, social events, outings and speakers. Meet us, or email: [info@u3aivo.uk](mailto:info@u3aivo.uk)



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Art \* Literature \* Games \*  
Humanities \* Languages \* Music  
Dance \* Science \* Nature \* Sport



learn laugh live

## HUGE Plant Sale

Holywell cum Needingworth  
Gardening Club

The largest **PLANT SALE** in  
the area will take place at

Needingworth Village Hall

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
2025**

**Prompt** start at 10.00 am till  
12.00

Great Plants Great Prices!

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January,  
Friends of Colne  
Church held their  
launch event '**Ale in  
the Aisle**'.

With 90 people joining us during the evening, it was a huge success and we are grateful to members of the Colne community for coming out and supporting us. With ale from Papworth Brewery, wines from Waitrose, a talk from a Director of the brewery, pie and chips provided by Xander's Kitchen and a table quiz it was a busy evening.

A great atmosphere with the church set up very differently from what you might expect and everyone entering into the spirit of the evening.

If you want to support future events please keep an eye on our website [www.colnechurchfriends.org](http://www.colnechurchfriends.org)



**WHAT'S ON  
EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE**

**April and May 2025**

**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 Rainbows & Brownies:**

Meeting in Needingworth on Tuesday evenings. Rainbows: girls 4-7 years old, Brownies: girls 7-9 years old. For more details contact Jules Swindells on 07597 569582 [needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com](mailto:needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com) [needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com)

**1st Needingworth Scout Group:**

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Wednesdays 6–7:30pm, contact [NeedingworthCubScouts@hotmail.com](mailto:NeedingworthCubScouts@hotmail.com); Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact [skip1stneedingworth@gmail.com](mailto:skip1stneedingworth@gmail.com) We are always looking for adult volunteers and would like to hear from you on [gslfirstneedingworth@outlook.com](mailto:gslfirstneedingworth@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. 4 April: Origami Craft demonstration and workshop - Liz Dive, 2 May: Chelsea Flower Show - Dr Tim Wreghitt. 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](mailto: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 playing the ukulele, there's no need to read music, just come along and give it a go. Please contact: [margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com).

**Music Makers**



**Come and make music with us**

*For pre-school children accompanied by an adult*

**St Helen's Church, Colne**

10 April, (2nd Thursday)  
15 May (3rd Thursday)

*Further details:  
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 a chat, please give us a call on our dedicated phone: 07714 528537.

**Colne Afternoon Carpet Bowls:** Village hall, Mondays 2-3.30 pm. £3 per session Come along for a roll up. A cuppa & cake included in the price. Contact Tony 01487841735

**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.

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

**Holywell cum Needingworth Gardening 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](http://www.hcngardening.weebly.com).

**Holywell cum Needingworth Good Neighbours:**

The group are no longer able to continue due to lack of volunteers. Please contact Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre on 01480 301462

**Holywell cum Needingworth WI:** 1st Monday of the month (if a Bank Holiday: 2nd Monday). Needingworth Village Hall, 7.30pm. 7 April: Demonstration and workshop on Origami with Liz Dive. 12 May: Dr Kevin Bryant will talk about health matters. New members or visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact Jackie on 01480 465997.

**Holywell cum Needingworth Yarnbombers:** Every Monday morning in the Ferry Boat, from 10.30am to 12.00. A friendly group of knitters and crocheters, we create items for display around the village, and work on projects for charity. All welcome. For more information please contact Jackie on 01480 465997

**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](mailto: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](http://www.meridiansingers.com).

**Needingworth Beer and Wine Society:** Meets in the pavilion every 3rd Friday in the month 8-10pm: [petronellaseb@gmail.com](mailto:petronellaseb@gmail.com).

**Needingworth Bowls Club:**

Come and join us at Short Mat bowls in the Village Hall every Thursday at 2pm. No need to bring anything just turn up. Equipment provided. It's a great way to spend a couple of hours, meet new people and have a cuppa. For details call Alan 07368 422241

**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**

Winners 200 club January 2025

£25	Mrs. C. York	No 30
£10	Mr. S. York	No 57
£10	Mrs. D. Brown	No 44

Winners 200 club February 2025

£25	Mrs. E. Strickland	No 118
£10	Mr. N. Brown	No 54
£10	Mr. & Mrs. C. Quick	No 81

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](mailto: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 April / May edition is Friday 16th May 2025