

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

'WELCOME SPACE' FACULTY GRANTED TO ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely has now granted a faculty to St John the Baptist Church, Holywell cum Needingworth, giving permission to proceed with the church's Welcome Space project.

This will involve providing long-awaited toilet and refreshment facilities in the church. The bell-ringing floor will move to a new mezzanine level to enable the entrance through the tower to be clear for wedding and funeral processions while the bells are being rung. The main body of the church will be opened up by removal of all the pews in favour of chairs, to provide a flexible space for different types of worship, events and meetings. This includes moving the font to a new position which will be more visible to baptismal congregations, also establishing space to provide a better welcome as people enter through the main (south) door.

Before work can begin the church will be looking to raise substantial amounts of money through grants and local fundraising. For more information on the project, contact the church-wardens.

At this time of year many of us will be going on holiday, so we wish that all may travel safely and enjoy a refreshing break. Some may be travelling to exotic destinations whilst others will be enjoying the beauty of all that the United Kingdom has to offer.

Whether you travel by car, bus or train, you will be never be far from the sight of a church spire, a steeple or a tower. Built to the glory of God and to proclaim his kingdom—each one is a significant part of our heritage and a constant reminder of our faith. Whether it be a small country church, a modern city church or a large cathedral; each one has a story to tell.

For instance, do you know the oldest church in England which is still in use as a church is said to be the tiny church of St Martin's in Canterbury? Originally the private chapel of Queen Bertha, the wife of the pagan King Ethelbert, it was later used as mission headquarters by Augustine on his arrival in England before Canterbury Cathedral was built. There are so many churches for us to discover and so many interesting stories to uncover.

Here in the Meridian Benefice, we are so blessed to have three beautiful church buildings, each with its own history. All different in style and character, yet united in continuing to show a strong Christian presence in our communities, reflecting a spirit of charity, and offering a social meeting place.

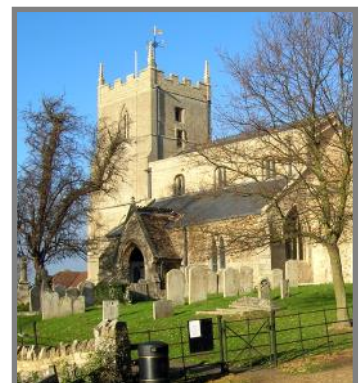
It is so important to cherish and maintain these three ancient churches which have stood proudly in this part of Cambridgeshire through the centuries. St Mary's tall spire can be seen from afar, the newer (late Victorian) church of St Helen's lies in the very centre of Colne, and St John's stands on a site of Christian pilgrimage from the Middle Ages. Each has its own fascinating story to offer. We must continue to be proud of this heritage and encourage our young people to understand the significance of this legacy. It is our duty to preserve these wonderful buildings for future generations to enjoy.

However, while the buildings are important, it is very important too for the churches to be a strong lively presence to meet the needs of our community, welcoming all, whether church-goers or not. There is so much loneliness and isolation in our society today and the church needs to be there to help, to listen, to support and to encourage.

All are welcome to come into our churches to seek a quiet moment of prayer – or just to sit in God's presence and feel at peace.

Psalm 133:1-3 – How Pleasant It Is When God's People Live Together In Unity.

Revd Valmor Pimenta



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 August and September 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 (church open 9am-5pm)	St Helen Colne (church open during daylight hours)	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 4 August	11am: Holy Communion with the Archdeacon Ven Richard Harlow 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship No Messy Church	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Café Sunday Needingworth Village Hall 2pm: Wedding
Sunday 11 August	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 18 August	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: All Age Service
Thursday 22 August			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Saturday 24 August			11am: Wedding
Sunday 25 August	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Morning Worship
Sunday 1 September	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship Messy Church moved to following week at 11am	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Sunday 8 September	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Messy Church / All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) 3pm: Baptism
Sunday 15 September	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship
Thursday 19 September			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Sunday 22 September	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) and Harvest Thanksgiving
Saturday 28 September			5pm: Social evening with refreshments: 'Meet the Vicar'
Sunday 29 September	11am: Harvest festival service 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Harvest Readings, Praise and Thanksgiving followed by soup lunch	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) or special service (tbc) 3pm: Baptism
Holy Hour, Pastoral Care	Thursdays 12pm: Holy Communion and Pastoral Visiting	Wednesdays 12pm: Pastoral Visiting	Tuesdays 12pm: Morning Prayer / Holy Communion (CW) and Pastoral Visiting

To the community of Holywell cum Needingworth
The PCC and parishioners of the parish of St. John the Baptist, Holywell cum Needingworth have agreed on a new pattern of services from September onwards. It is hoped that this will mean that more people will feel able to engage in the life of the church and we would like to emphasise that everyone is welcome to worship with us.

St John the Baptist Church Holywell invites you to 'Meet the Vicar' on Saturday 28 September from 5pm to 7pm in the church.

For our Benefice gathering on 28th September, we have the opportunity to 'Meet the Vicar'. Revd Valmor will tell his story followed by a chance to socialise. Wine, nibbles and light refreshments will be available.

All are welcome.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BLUNTISHAM

Rectory Road, PE28 3LN

SUMMER FAIR

Sunday 4th August 2024

12.30pm - 6.00pm

FREE ENTRY

Hog
Roast!



* Charges Apply

Everyone is welcome
Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon -
Stalls, tombola, raffle
Refreshments / drinks
Vegetarian Options
Bring your family &
friends

Music



Wow, wow, wow, what can we say, but a heartfelt 'Thank you' to everyone who came and supported the delicious Strawberry Tea with Pimm's, at St Helen's Church on Sat 29th June. A beautiful afternoon when summer sun blessed us all and we enjoyed lots of friendship and fellowship both inside and outside in the garden.

What a wonderful community we are part of! We are so grateful for all your very generous donations towards the cost of a lawnmower for the church. Thanks to your generosity, we not only raised £600+ but also have been gifted a lawnmower from a family in Bluntisham.

We will put the extra money raised towards repairs of the church building (as some are becoming urgent, like replacing roof tiles).

Thank you and may God bless you.

Bev and Bob (wardens) and St Helen's church family.



Dear Friends,

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who came to the Garden Party at the Rectory on Saturday July 13th.

It was such a happy occasion and it was good to see so many of you enjoying the sunshine, together with the barbecue and the wonderful spread of food and drink that was brought along.

May it be first of many happy social events for us to enjoy together in the Benefice.

Revd. Valmor Pimenta



Please join us at
**St John the Baptist
Church,**
Holywell-cum-Needingworth

on

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
10.00-12.00**

for a

**HARVEST COFFEE
MORNING**

Good coffee and home baked
goods, stalls, raffle.
In aid of the church
and St Ives Food bank.

In aid of
Breast Cancer Now

A Concert

featuring

Singer **Joanne Dodds**
and Pianist **Roger Lilley**

performing musical numbers and
pop ballads

Plus Guest Musicians

David Walters, Oliver Charter
and
Male Barbershop **Reunion Quartet**

Colne Community Hall, East Street,
Colne, PE28 3LZ
Saturday 5th October 2024 at 7.30pm
Doors open at 6.45pm
Tickets £8.50 each
on sale from 5th September
Contact Jo on 07391 262930 / 01487 843894

All proceeds less hall hire go to Breast Cancer Now



Harvest Coffee Morning

St Helen's Church, Colne

Saturday 28th September

10am - 12 noon

All welcome

**BOOKINGS SECRETARY REQUIRED
for
NEEDINGWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

If you would like to contribute to a small, progressive, enthusiastic team who manage our vibrant Village Hall, please contact:

Debbie Williams: 07767 608753
chair@needingworthvillagehall.com

or

Mark Hebert: 07748 848686
secretary@needingworthvillagehall.com

Meridian Benefice

Blessing of the Animals and Special Toys

Service Time:
5th Oct 24 St. Mary's Church-Bluntisham 12pm
12th Oct 24 St. John the Baptist Church-Holywell 12pm

Bring your Pets and Toys for Revd. Valmor Pimenta to Bless them!

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

August and September 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 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. August: Members' Garden Party, 5th September: Walkeoke Disco/Exercise (including chair based) with Barbara Hockaday, Monday 16th September Orchard Group joint meeting at Needingworth, My creative Journey with Amanda Sutherland. 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 playing the ukulele, no

Music Makers



Come and make music with us

For pre-school children accompanied by an adult

10-11am

Needingworth Village Hall
Not on in August, 12 September
St Helen's Church, Colne
Not on in August, 26 September

Further details:
Carole Mills, 07788 925708,
or Wendy George, 07753 718918

need to read music, just come along and give it a go. Please contact margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com.

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 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.

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. 5th August: Diana

Boston on The Manor in Hemingford Grey, one of the oldest continuously inhabited houses in the country. 2nd September: Peter Cooper from a local history group on 'Local roads and lanes' 16th September: joint meeting at Needingworth Village Hall: Amanda Sutherland on her career in costume design. 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

May 200 club winner
£25 Mrs. S. Morgan No 5
£10 Mr. R. Armit No 10
£10 Mrs. E. Strickland No 115
June 200 club winners
£25 Mrs. J. Whitehead No 40
£10 Mrs. C. Border No 112
£10 Mr. N. Brown No 54
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 October / November edition is Friday 13th September 2024