

## 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



### Good Friday

#### Walk of Witness:

Aim to arrive at St Mary's Church, Bluntisham cum Earith at 11:30-11:45am for refreshments and 12pm 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.

#### Go forward in hope!

At this time of the year, we can begin to look forward to leaving behind the darkness of winter as we move towards the beauty and freshness of spring. The annual cycle of life allows nature to rest and lie dormant before showing the signs of renewal and regrowth. I look at the bare branches of the trees in my garden and find it hard to believe that they will be once again be miraculously transformed when they come back into full leaf.



Perhaps we can see this reflected in our own lives. Winter may make us feel despondent and lethargic. We may spend time reflecting on the past rather than looking to the future. Maybe we have been discouraged by past events and weighed down by problems, but hopefully we should feel encouraged by the transformation of spring. Looking back on the past can provide us with many happy memories but we need to look forward to the future with all its possibilities and opportunities.

A quote from an anonymous writer tells us,

*"Looking back, may I be filled with gratitude; Looking forward, may I be filled with hope; Looking upward, may I be aware of strength; Looking inward, may I find peace..."*

Sometimes in our daily lives we hope for things to happen, we might hope for a new job or a change in our circumstances, but there is always a certain amount of doubt or anxiety in these hopes.

The Christian message is one of hope, based on the sure confidence and faith in the power of Jesus Christ. It gives us the strength to face our problems and move forward.

*"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."* – **Isaiah 40:31**

We will soon be entering the season of Lent, a time when many Christians spend time in prayer, in reading the Scriptures and reflecting on God's love in order to become closer to him. We believe that Jesus died for our sins and gave us the promise of eternal life.

Just as the darkness of winter is followed by the freshness of spring, so the darkness of Lent is followed by the glorious light of salvation when Christ rose from the dead, celebrated at Easter.

I would like to invite you to begin this journey. Lent invites us to reflect, to change, and to be reconciled with God and with one another. On **18 February**, we will begin this precious period in the Church calendar, and we hope to work together to make the places where we live more joyful and welcoming.

So let go of the past, embrace the new and look forward to what can be. Believe that he has amazing things in store for you. Go forward in hope!

**Revd Valmor Pimenta**

The Vicar of the Meridian Benefice

St Helen's Church, Colne

St Mary's Church, Bluntisham-cum-Earith

St John the Baptist Church, Holywell-cum-Needingworth



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 February and March 2026 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

Please contact Revd Valmor (details above) for all enquiries about weddings, funerals, baptisms (christenings), confirmation, home Communion or visits.

|   | <b>St Mary<br/>Bluntisham cum Earith</b><br>(church open 9am-5pm)                     | <b>St Helen<br/>Colne</b><br>(church open during daylight hours)  | <b>St John the Baptist<br/>Holywell cum Needingworth</b>   |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Churchwarden:<br>Stephen Edwards (07966 294478)<br><b>bce@meridianbenefice.org.uk</b> | Churchwardens:<br>Beverley Barlow (01487 840223)<br>Robert Major (01487 841900)<br><b>colne@meridianbenefice.org.uk</b>   | Churchwardens:<br>Ben Peilow (07803 937503)<br>Michael Williamson (01480 465821)<br><b>hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk</b> |
| Sunday 1 February<br><b>Candlemas</b>             | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: Morning Worship<br>4pm: Messy Church   | 8am: Holy Communion (BCP)<br>9:30am: Morning Worship   |
| Tuesday 3 February                                |   |   | 12pm: Holy Communion (CW)  |
| Sunday 8 February                                 | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: All Age Service<br>7pm: Benefice prayers  | 9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)  |
| Sunday 15 February                                | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: Holy Communion  | 9:30am: Morning Worship  |
| Wednesday 18 February<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b>     | 7pm: Ashing Service   |   | 12pm: Ashing Service   |
| Thursday 19 February                              |   |   | 6pm: Compline  |
| Sunday 22 February<br><b>First Sunday of Lent</b> | 11am: Holy Communion<br>5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion<br>Rector's Hall, Earith            | 11am: All Age Service   | 9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)  |
| Sunday 1 March                                    | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: Morning Worship<br>4pm: Messy Church   | 8am: Holy Communion (BCP)<br>9:30am: Morning Worship   |
| Tuesday 3 March                                   |   |   | 12pm: Holy Communion (CW)  |
| Sunday 8 March                                    | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: All Age Service<br>7pm: Benefice prayers  | 9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)<br>4pm: Lent Taizé Service   |
| Sunday 15 March<br><b>Mothering Sunday</b>        | 11am: Morning Worship   | 11am: Holy Communion  | 9:30am: Mothering Sunday Service   |
| Thursday 19 March                                 |   |   | 6pm: Compline  |
| <b>Saturday 21 March</b>                          | 10am: Lent Study Day  |   |  |
| Sunday 22 March                                   | 11am: Holy Communion<br>5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion<br>Rector's Hall, Earith            | 11am: All Age Service   | 9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)  |
| Sunday 29 March<br><b>Palm Sunday</b>             | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: Palm Sunday Celebration<br>4pm: <b>Easter Messy Church</b> <br>(moved from Sunday 5 April) | 9:30am: Palm Procession followed by<br>Holy Communion (CW)   |
| Monday 30 March                                   |   |   | 7pm: Holy Monday Service   |
| Tuesday 31 March                                  |   |   | 7pm: Holy Tuesday Service  |
| Wednesday 1 April                                 |   | 7pm: Taizé Service  |  |
| Thursday 2 April<br><b>Maundy Thursday</b>        | 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service  |   |  |
| Friday 3 April<br><b>Good Friday</b>              | Walk of Witness (see page 1)<br>12pm: Good Friday Service                             | Walk of Witness (see page 1)  | 10am: Walk of Witness (see page 1)<br>3pm: Good Friday Service   |
| Saturday 4 April                                  |   | 7pm: Service of Hope  |  |
| Sunday 5 April<br><b>Easter</b>                   | 11am: Holy Communion  | 11am: Holy Communion<br>(Messy Church moved to 29 March)  | 6:15am: Dawn Communion<br>9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)  |
|   | <b>Thursdays 12pm:</b> Holy Communion   |   |  |

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





# 'Ale in the Aisle'

St. Helen's Church, Colne

**6th Feb 2026**  
7pm onwards

Food & Nibbles  
Unique candlelight atmosphere  
Table quiz, board & card games  
or bring your own table games

Ale, Wine  
Soft drinks  
Nibbles

Tickets £10 each which includes  
2 drinks of your choice from the bar.  
Fundraising for Friends of Colne Church

More Information at  
[www.colnechurchfriends.org](http://www.colnechurchfriends.org)

Buy your tickets online  
(Scan the QR code)  
or on the door



6th Feb 2026  
7pm onwards

## Snowdrop Coffee Morning

Saturday 14 February 2026  
10-12 a.m. at  
St John the Baptist Church  
Holywell-cum-Needingworth



Coffee, tea and home-made cakes  
Mystery parcels, raffle  
Potted spring bulbs for sale  
In aid of church funds




## Spring Coffee Morning

St Helen's Church, Colne  
Saturday 7th March  
10am - 12pm

Everyone welcome

## A service in the spirit of Taizé

# TAIZÉ



Join us for a special time of meditation,  
song and prayer to mark the season of Lent

St John the Baptist parish church  
Sunday 8 March, 4pm

## Sunday 15 March Mothering Sunday Service



9.30 am at  
St John the Baptist parish church  
Holywell-cum-Needingworth  
Posies and Simnel cake  
Everyone welcome!

St Helen's Church, Colne would like to thank everyone for their huge support at the Christmas Fayre which raised £618.64 and also at the Christmas Eve Service which raised £239.81 for the Cambridge Emmaus charity; helping the homeless.

**Wanted:** one or two volunteers to deliver the Herald in Needingworth to Overcote Lane, 6 times a year. The full route is 63 addresses, but could be split between two people. Please contact Stephen York if you are interested: 07768 924249, [stephenyork@flagholme.net](mailto:stephenyork@flagholme.net)



# LENT

## Study Day

led by Revd Peter Leech –  
Director of Mission and Ministry  
followed by refreshments

Saturday 21 March  
10am-12:30pm  
St Mary's Church,  
Bluntisham



## Music Makers

Come and make music  
with us

For pre-school children  
accompanied by an adult

**St Helen's Church, Colne**  
First Thursday of the month  
5 February  
5 March

Further details:  
Wendy George,  
07753 718918

## WHAT'S ON EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE

February and March 2026

### 1<sup>st</sup> Bluntisham Rainbows & Brownies:

Meeting in Bluntisham on Tuesday evenings. Rainbows: girls 4-7 years old, Brownies girls 7-10 years old. For more details contact Jules Swindells on 07597 569582 [Girlguiding.Bluntisham@gmail.com](mailto:Girlguiding.Bluntisham@gmail.com)

### 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 4:45-5:45pm. 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](mailto:scouts@1st-ebc-scouts.org.uk)

### 1st Needingworth Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Monday 6–7pm, contact [Aleta.watson@1st-needlingworth-scouts.org.uk](mailto:Aleta.watson@1st-needlingworth-scouts.org.uk) Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact [chris.boddy@1st-needlingworth-scouts.org.uk](mailto:chris.boddy@1st-needlingworth-scouts.org.uk). We are always looking for adult volunteers and would like to hear from you on the e-addresses above. We are looking for volunteers to restart Beavers (6-8yrs).

**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. 5 Feb: What they didn't tell you in school History - Stuart Orme, Cromwell Museum, 5 March: AGM. Further information from Lindsay: [lema60@btinternet.com](mailto:lema60@btinternet.com) Non-members welcome for a small charge.

**Bluntisham Social Badminton Club:** play at Bluntisham Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 8-10pm. Contact: Lynne [lynnedowell@btinternet.com](mailto:lynnedowell@btinternet.com)

**BUGS Ukulele group:** 2:30pm on Tuesdays in the Fellowship room of Bluntisham Baptist Church. Sing, smile and strum your ukulele. All skill levels welcome. For more info email [bugscamps@gmail.com](mailto:bugscamps@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.

### Colne Caring Community (3Cs):

A 'not for profit' group run for the benefit of the community of Colne and the surrounding

area. Fortnightly Café sessions on Friday afternoons are held for local people of all ages, 2 - 4pm at Colne Village Hall. £2.50 per session which includes hot drinks and delicious home-made cakes. Sometimes with talks or entertainment. Any queries, call on our dedicated phone 07714 528537. See you soon!

**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 WI:** 1st Monday of the month (if a Bank Holiday: 2nd Monday). Needingworth Village Hall, 7:30pm. 2 February: Mindfulness and Yoga talk - Steve Iddon, 2 March: AGM. Visitors welcome, for more information please contact Jackie Norris 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 or [jackienorris@btinternet.com](mailto:jackienorris@btinternet.com)

**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 Hall 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 07715 477940 to find out more and join us.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Children's Half Term Café

Wed 18th Feb 2pm-4.30pm  
Indoor games and activities  
Homemade cakes, cupcakes, cookies, soft drinks, teas, coffees, hot chocolate  
All very reasonably priced  
ALL ages welcome!

### Beacon Café

Bluntisham Baptist Church Hall  
High Street Bluntisham

### Wellworth Players Pantomime: Sleeping Beauty

To be performed at Needingworth Village Hall 19th-21st February 7.30pm and Matinee Saturday 2.30pm. Tickets £8 available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wellworthplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wellworthplayers) or call 07748 848686

### St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

|                       |                     |    |     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----|-----|
| Winners November 2025 |                     |    |     |
| £25                   | Mrs. S. Dawson      | No | 52  |
| £10                   | Mrs. E. Strickland  | No | 115 |
| £10                   | Holywell Membership | No | 49  |

|                       |                     |    |     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----|-----|
| Winners December 2025 |                     |    |     |
| £25                   | Holywell Membership | No | 49  |
| £10                   | Mrs. A. Owen        | No | 103 |
| £10                   | Mrs. S. Dawson      | No | 123 |

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 be included in the Herald.  
Deadline for entry to the April / May edition is Friday 16th March 2026