

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



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.

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

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.

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

Ale, Wine
Soft drinks
Nibbles

More Information at
www.colnechurchfriends.org

Food & Nibbles

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

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

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

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

1st 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

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

1st Needingworth Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Monday 6-7pm, contact Aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact chris.boddy@1st-needingworth-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 Café: 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 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 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 bugscambs@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

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 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

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.

Needingworth Beer and Wine Society: Meets in the pavilion every 3rd Friday in the month 8-10pm: 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 or call 07748 848686

St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

Winners November 2025		
£25	Mrs. S. Dawson	No 52
£10	Mrs. E. Srickland	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.