

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

October and November 2025

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



Hello everyone!

"The light shines in the darkness..."

We warmly invite you to come and see the new spot-lighting at the church. We have also decorated and installed new internal lights in the Church Hall, and it looks absolutely amazing!

The parishioners are very thankful for all the support that has made this possible from our volunteers and the PCC of St Mary's Church.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

Dear Readers

Matthew:16.18

Jesus declares, "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

The Church is a place for everyone — Christian or not — where people grow together, celebrate, receive comfort, and enjoy fellowship. Walking through our churches, I meet many people: some from our villages, others from distant cities and even from abroad. The Church truly is an open place.

Attending and actively serving in a church helps us grow and increase our positive influence in the lives of others. In

church, we are taught to live out religious principles and we learn from one another. A convincing example is often more powerful than a sermon. We are strengthened by connecting with people who share our beliefs, and as the Bible says, our hearts become "knit together in love."

Scripture makes it clear that Christ established His Church to continue His work. He called twelve apostles and gave them authority to lead it. The Bible teaches that Christ is "the head of the church" and that its leaders were chosen "for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Belonging to the Church today remains essential.

Some people feel church attendance does not help them — "I didn't learn anything today," "No one was kind to me," "I was offended." But personal disappointments should never distance us from Christ's doctrine, which teaches us to serve, not to be served.

I have also met people who, years ago, stopped going to church because of difficulties with ministers or with other members. If you have had a painful experience, I warmly invite you to give the church another chance — to re-engage, let the past heal, and move forward. Many have found that greeting those who sit alone, welcoming visitors, and volunteering each week transforms not only their own experience, but also the lives of others. They come each Sunday, intending to be an active participant, and during the week they get involved in many ways in our churches, becoming a positive influence in people's lives.

Being united within the Church reminds us that we have one God and that we need to live in community. If we hope to spend eternity with God, how could we not want to be at church regularly, being strengthened and encouraged? Our churches are here to support you, and we would welcome the chance to get to know you. Just come!

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 Parish Holywell-cum-Needingworth



Remembrance Services Sunday 9th November

Bluntisham-cum-Earith	Colne	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Earith: 12.30pm: Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by light refreshments at the Rector's Hall Bluntisham: 2pm Meet at Village Hall for procession to Baptist church, then to War Memorial for wreath laying	Colne: 10.50am at the War Memorial followed by Remembrance service at 11am in St Helen's Church.	10am: Remembrance service in the school hall followed by a procession to Needingworth War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying at 11am.



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 October and November 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

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: Peter Brace (07727 064138) Stephen Edwards (07966 294478) bce@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Beverley Barlow (01487 840223) Robert Major (01487 841900) colne@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Michael Williamson (01480 465821) Ben Peilow (07803 937503) hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk
Saturday 4th October	12pm: Pet Blessing Service		
Sunday 5 October	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Harvest Festival 4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Tuesday 7 October			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Saturday 11 October			12pm: Pet Blessing Service 2pm: Baptism
Sunday 12 October	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Evensong	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Thursday 16 October			6pm: Compline
Saturday 18 October	12pm: Baptism		
Sunday 19 October	11am: Holy Communion 7pm: Evensong	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship with RBL - 'Every Man Remembered'
Sunday 26 October	11am: Holy Communion, Safeguarding Sunday	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW), Safeguarding Sunday
Sunday 2 November	11am: All Souls Service with Holy Communion	11am: Morning Worship 4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship 3pm: All Souls Service
Tuesday 4 November			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 9 November Remembrance Sunday	10:45am: Remembrance Service 12:30pm Earith Memorial Remembrance Service 2pm: Walking from Bluntisham Village Hall to Baptist church	10:55am: Remembrance Service at memorial then in church 7pm: Benefice prayers	10am: Remembrance Service - Holywell Primary School then walk to Needingworth War Memorial for 10:50am Remembrance Service
Tuesday 11th November	10:45am: Remembrance Service with planting of tree by British Legion		
Sunday 16 November	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Evensong	11am: Holy Communion, Safeguarding Sunday	9:30am: Morning Worship
Thursday 20 November			6pm: Compline
Sunday 23 November Christ the King	11am: Holy Communion	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) 4pm: Taizé Service
Saturday 29 November	6pm: St Mary, Benefice gathering - Archdeacon Revd Richard - Reflecting on Advent - all are welcome		
Sunday 30 November 1st of Advent	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Advent Café Praise	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
	Thursdays 12pm: Holy Communion		

All Souls

In preparation for the commemoration of All Souls on Sunday 2 November at 3.00pm, if anyone in the parish of Holywell-cum-Needlingworth would like the name(s) of deceased relatives or friends read out at the service, please send details to Ben Peilow using the email address:

hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk by 28 October.

It is an occasion to think of loved ones and light a candle in their memory.

food.gives

A project of **barnabasaid**

We have previously collected donations of dried food for Barnabas Aid - 'food gives'; a project that functions as an international food bank for people, shipping donations of food around the world. However, as they will no longer collect the boxes from us, please contribute directly via their website www.food.gives/gb/

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

Needlingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust present:



The Fleetwood Mac Tribute

4th
October
2025
7.30pm
start



Doors open 7pm
Tickets now on sale
Fully Licensed Bar

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/needlingworthvillagehall/t-xmgryok>



**Operation Christmas
Child Shoebox Appeal
2025**

Samaritan's Purse send shoeboxes filled with toys and useful things to thousands of children worldwide. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many children, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

Filled shoeboxes can be brought to St Helen's Church, Colne on Saturday 8th November, 10am-12pm or 9:45-10:45am on 9th November before the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Empty shoeboxes and leaflets are available from St Helen's Church. If you need your box collecting,

please contact Bev Barlow on 01487 840223.

For more information,
visit www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



The Russian Revolution

The course will include the background history to 1914
The ideologies of Marxism and Leninism; revolutions of 1917 .
The Civil War and Stalin's revolution : Collectivisation of
Agriculture and Industrialisation.

Tutor: Stephen Corley
Fee: £25

Later Autumn term course

Begins Monday 3rd November 2025 for 5 weeks
At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ **new times** of 10.30am to
12.15pm



To register or for more information, please contact Marie Quick
on 07905 911558
or email marie_quick358@hotmail.com
Try out the first session free.



St Helen's Church,
Colne
invites you to

Harvest Sunday

followed by
soup lunch
5th October
11am

All Welcome

food gifts for
The Trussell Trust

Taizé Service

A candlelit service of
prayer, reflection and music
in the Taizé tradition
4.00pm

Sunday 23 November.
St John the Baptist church,
Holywell
All are most welcome to
attend.



All Creatures Great and Small – and their Favourite
Toys – are Welcome!

Blessing Service for Pets & Special Toys

St. Mary's Church
Bluntisham-cum-Earish
Saturday, 04th October 2025
12:00 Noon

St. John the Baptist Church
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth
Saturday, 11th October 2025
12:00 Noon

Bring your beloved pets or cherished
toys for a special blessing!

This joyful, family-friendly event
celebrates the love, companionship, and
comfort our animals and favourite toys
bring us.

St. Mary's Church Bluntisham-cum-Earish



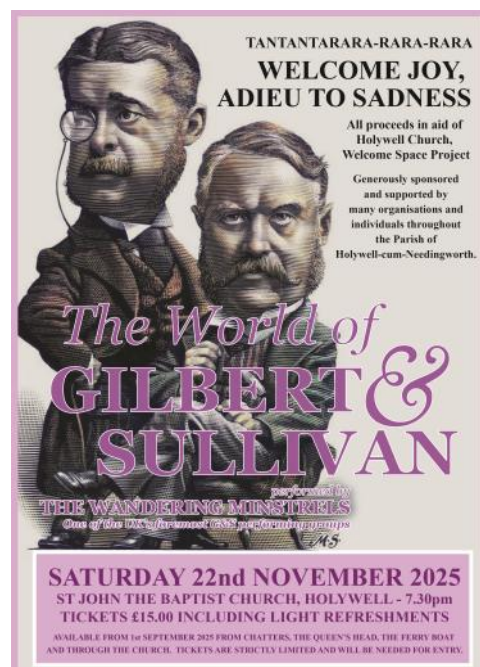
**Check out our
Evensong Services:**

12th October 25
at 5PM

16th November 25
at 5PM



**Clocks go back one hour in the
night between
25th and 26th October**



TANTANTARARA-RARA-RARA
**WELCOME JOY,
ADIEU TO SADNESS**

All proceeds in aid of
Holywell Church,
Welcome Space Project

Generously sponsored
and supported by
many organisations and
individuals throughout
the Parish of
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth.

The World of
**GILBERT &
SULLIVAN**

performed by
THE WANDERING MINSTRELS
One of the UK's foremost folk music ensembles

SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2025
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HOLYWELL - 7.30pm
TICKETS £15.00 INCLUDING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

AVAILABLE FROM 1st SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM CHATTERS, THE QUEEN'S HEAD, THE FERRY BOAT
AND THROUGH THE CHURCH. TICKETS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED AND WILL BE NEEDED FOR ENTRY.

Needlingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust present:

Bi ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT **22nd November 2025** **7.30pm start**

£25 per team plus booking fee
Teams up to 6 people
Doors open 7pm
Tickets now on sale

Fully Licensed Bar & Raffle
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bookings/t-qjnlpny



Raffle Prize donations welcomed

WHAT'S ON EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE

October and November 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 needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com

1st Needingworth Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Wednesdays 6–7:30pm, contact NeedingworthCubScouts@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. 2 Oct: How to trace your family tree - Peter Grout, 6 Nov: MAGPAS Air Ambulance - Emma Sanders. 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 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.

Music Makers



Come and make music with us

For pre-school children accompanied by an adult

St Helen's Church, Colne

2nd Thursdays:

9 October

13 November

Further details:

Wendy George, 07753 718918

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 per session which includes hot drinks and delicious homemade cakes. Sometimes with talks or entertainment. Upcoming dates are 10 & 24 October, 7 & 21 November. 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 patpaul-miller@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. 6 Oct: 'WALKEOKE' with Bobbi, 3 Nov: Behind the scenes at the sale room - David Fletcher 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 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.

St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

Winners July 2025

£25	Mrs. A Stevens	No 18
£10	Mr. T. Dighton	No 26
£10	Mrs. E Strickland	No 132

Winners August 2025

£25	Mrs. A. Lorman	No 125
£10	Mrs. C. Border	No 112
£10	Mr. W. Griffiths	No 147

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 be included in the Herald.

Deadline for entry to the December / January edition is Friday 14th November 2025