

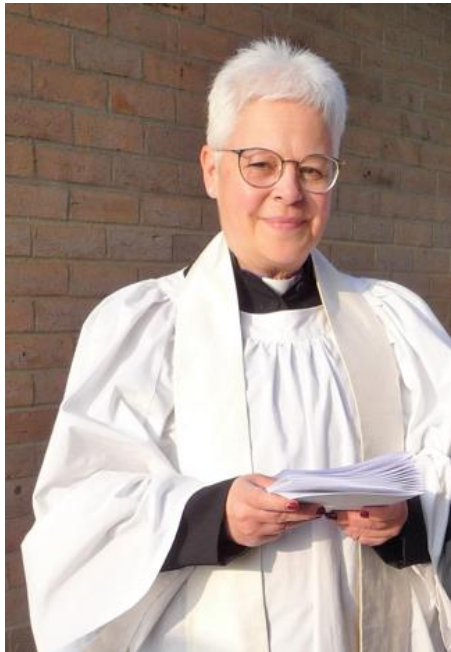


**26 JULY 2026**

With prayer & faith in God we seek to engage with the community - *inside* we enrich & equip: *outside* we give & care.

**Come and join us with our community of faith at St Mary's!**

**TODAY'S LINK NEWSLETTER FOR:  
26 JULY to 9 AUGUST**



**A gentle reminder to us all:**



**Are Rev Sally's days of rest each week - no contact unless essential please:**

**"Every day we are given is a new start" Rev Sally Letman**



**Rev Adrian is preaching to us this Sunday - he has given us this taster of his sermon...**

**Romans 8:26-39 & Matthew 13:31-52,**  
*I often think about how often life surprises us, leaving us speechless or unable to find the right words, whether in times of grief, fear, or quiet reflection.*  
*Romans 8 reminds us that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, ensuring nothing can ever separate us from God's love. I personally remember my years as a nurse, caring for patients under anaesthesia or in the ICU after serious illness; it really mirrors how we step in to care for those who can't speak for themselves.*  
*And just like in Matthew 13, where small things like a mustard seed or yeast grow into something wonderful, simple acts of kindness—checking on a neighbour, offering a hand, or just being there—may seem small but can become life-changing. We don't need perfect prayers or grand gestures. When we feel weak, we're held; and even the smallest act is loved by God, who brings purpose to every part of our lives.*  
**Every blessing, Adrian.**





**WORSHIP TIMELINE**

*St Mary's is open for private prayer every day.*

**2026**

26 July, 9.30am, St John's, *Family Service.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion led by Rev Adrian.*  
6.30pm, Churches together in Capel @ St Mary's.

27 July, 10am to 2pm, *St Mary's Spud Club.*

28 July, 12.30pm, St Mary's Hall, *Luncheon Club*

29 July, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

2 Aug, 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion led by Rev Adrian*

5 Aug, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

9 Aug, 9.30am, St John's, *Morning Prayer.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion*  
*led by Rev Anthony Lurie.*

12 Aug, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

16 Aug, 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Family Service*  
*led by Beverley.*



Contents today:

- Page 3: Deanery Garden Party;
- Page 5: Readings and Sally's Reflection;
- Page 8: The overhaul of Heritage Funding for Churches;
- Page 11: News at a Glance;
- Page 14: Scarecrow Trail round-up;
- Page 17: News from the Pews - What's On;
- Page 28: Melissa's Suffolk Nature Page;
- Page 30: Mo's Prayer List for Today



# ***SAMFORD DEANERY GARDEN PARTY***

*Was held on a warm summer evening in July at Rev Sally's Rectory garden.*



*Jenny Seggar our rural dean gives the intros....*



*(Left) the rectory dinner table is full of delicious contributions.*



*(Left) Meanwhile Buzz Lightyear was absolutely starving!*





*A great time was had by all.....*

*And thank you for hosting it Rev Sally.....*



# NEW TESTAMENT READING - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

**Matthew 13: 31,32, 44-50**

## ***The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast***

He told them another parable: "*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.*"

*"Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."*

He told them still another parable: "*The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.*"

**THE SIZE OF A  
MUSTARD SEED**

## ***The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl***

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.*



## ***The Parable of the Net***



*"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.*

*"When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.*

*"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

*"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.*

*"Yes," they replied.*

He said to them, "*Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.*"

## ***Sally's Reflection***

**"Heavenly Father, through weak human words, give us grace to hear your true and living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord" Amen**

**MATTHEW 13: 13:31,32. 44-52**

I wonder what you truly treasure?

Is it a family heirloom that reminds you of your mother, is it a tatty old book you read to the children when they were young. Or is it your family, your garden or even your health.

I wonder how often you consider that the gospels are treasures; not something we dust off occasionally and take out for an hour to look at, or like an object in a museum we visit.

The gospel is a live and living thing; a treasure of teaching that we can treasure and be spurred into action to live our lives by it.

The parables and comparisons of objects by Matthew challenges us; the comparison of the Kingdom of Heaven, like a small seed that will grow into a huge tree and shelter birds and creatures; the treasure buried in a field for safety, a merchant searching for precious pearls or a net thrown into the sea catching shoals of fish.

We all search for something in our lives; we may experiment with faith, visit other churches, but we keep searching and yearning, never satisfied until we find a treasure; sometimes, like in the parables by accident; sometimes after a long and patient search.

And it is immensely valuable to us. Even love that we have lost stays like a treasure in our hearts.



Our treasure must be, says Jesus, a combination of the old and the new. Matthew's scribes keep learning and searching. Jesus is telling us we are meant to look back, to respect and integrate the old and familiar pattern of the Old Testament; the Kings reading asks for a wise and discerning mind.

And yet the new of Jesus Christ is not in opposition to those ideas and teachings, new things can also be old, it's a way of looking at them.

The treasures of the gospels are never going to tarnish or fade, the treasures of the gospels will always keep on teaching us.

***How can we as individuals and as a church, ensure that we are rooted in our living, in our speaking and our thinking in the ways of the old but bearing the fruit of the new and fresh fruit of the Kingdom of heaven?***

As a praying church, we have been exploring our gifts when we hold our Annual General Meetings and we pray for our hopes and prayers for the future; the way to grow, embracing and respecting our traditions, having confidence in 'how we do church' but also signalling to the community that ours is a treasure, both old and new.

In the beautiful reading from Romans, we are poetically reminded that as we pray, we are helped in our weaknesses, the spirit interceded for us. For all things work together for good, we have many treasures in our church, let us show them to others.

For as Paul reminds us, '*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*' Amen

# ***A New Hymn for today -***

## ***Fruit of the Spirit*** ***sung by Darren Winfield***

***As played by Valerie at last Sunday's Family Service which was led by Julie and centred on Fruit of the Spirit***

***Click below:***

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FJY2M02Qg>**



Darren Winfield is a Melbourne-based Christian worship music composer, songwriter, and former educator. He creates contemporary and traditional Christian worship music, heavily utilizing advanced AI tools for lyrics, music generation, and visuals.



## *As St Mary's faces a huge repair bill a new report calls for overhaul of heritage funding and planning as volunteers are "overwhelmed"*

There are thousands of historic churches and chapels across England, many of which rely on volunteers and have costly maintenance bills that are shouldered by small congregations or 'friends' of the church.

Churches face "unsustainable" financial and practical pressures unless the government strengthens support for the UK's historic places of worship, MPs have warned in a major report calling for a new approach to protecting the nation's built heritage.



The cross-party Culture, Media and Sport Committee published its new report titled '*Protecting Built Heritage*' following an 18-month inquiry that received 113 written submissions and heard evidence from heritage organisations and church representatives including the Church of England's Director for Cathedral and Church Buildings, Emily Gee (pic right).



*The report holds that churches, cathedrals and other historic buildings are increasingly threatened by rising repair costs, shortages of specialist skills and a planning system that often makes restoration more difficult than new construction.*

The report notes that heritage tourism contributes around £20bn annually to the UK economy.

Among the committee's concerns is the financial burden facing churches following changes to government support for repairs.

England has more than 370,000 listed buildings, including around 14,800 places of worship.

Most (83%) belong to the Church of England, with churches collectively spending more than £1bn each year maintaining their buildings, with £167m invested in building projects during 2023.

### *Current regime discourages restoration and reuse*

The report warns that replacing the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** with the new **Places of Worship Renewal Fund** risks leaving some historically significant churches without adequate support.

It recommends that the new fund should be "*at least as generous in real terms*" as the previous scheme before its budget reductions and the introduction of funding caps.

MPs urged ministers to ensure that the funding criteria properly balances social deprivation with the historic significance and wider community role of churches. The committee further called on the government to explore "*targeted VAT relief for maintenance and conversion of listed heritage buildings*", arguing that the current tax regime discourages restoration and reuse.

*Witnesses told the inquiry that the removal of VAT relief and subsequent funding caps had left some churches facing repair bills so large that projects had become financially unviable.*

Camilla Finaly, Director of Clews Architects, described the VAT burden on major repair projects as "catastrophic".

Volunteers, who carry much of the responsibility for maintaining church buildings, were identified as an area of growing concern.

The Churches' Legislation Advisory Service warned the committee that many historic places of worship depend heavily on volunteers and that if maintaining buildings becomes "*too overwhelming or becomes financially unsustainable, they may simply walk away*".

To prevent burnout, the Committee recommended creating "*a funded support framework*" providing volunteer-led heritage organisations access to "*critical friends*", mentoring and short-term professional support such as surveyors, conservation architects and project managers.

### *Unlocking wider potential*

MPs also highlighted a shortage of traditional heritage skills - including stonemasonry, stained-glass conservation, bell founding and roofing - warning that the decline of these specialist crafts poses a significant threat to the future of the UK's historic buildings, including churches and other places of worship.

The report calls on the government to work with **Historic England** and **Skills England** to establish protected training pathways and a dedicated heritage skills hub.



Committee chair Dame Caroline Dinenage (pic left) said current government policy was failing both to protect historic buildings and to unlock their wider potential.

*"We heard compelling evidence that the best way of protecting a building is for it to be occupied, used, lived in and loved,"* she said.

Calling for a national "heritage-to-housing" programme, she added: *"'Reuse first' should be the guiding principle, with a heritage to housing scheme offering a clear win-win by preserving our historic buildings and helping to meet the pressing need for new homes."*

She recommended funding that "*incentivises repairs and renewal over construction*", while addressing the serious shortage of skilled workers in the heritage sector.

Beyond churches, the committee recommends reforms to planning rules, improved stewardship of government-owned heritage assets, annual reporting on the condition of historic buildings and greater recognition of under-represented heritage sites.

*Concluding its inquiry, the committee warned that continued inaction risked not only the loss of Britain's historic buildings but also missed opportunities for regeneration, housing and economic growth.*

With thanks to Christian Today

(Right) From Church Times



***INCREDIBLE NATURE PHOTO DEPT.,***

A superb image taken by our esteemed photographer Chrissie Hart who told us;  
*"With the harvest time upon us I was lucky to capture this image of an arriving barn owl before the barley had been cut"*

During the summer, barn owls hunt extensively over rough grasslands, hay meadows, and along hedgerows to feed their growing chicks. With abundant prey, their summer hunting range shrinks to about a 1 km radius around the nest. You can spot them flying low and slow, or perched on fence posts, especially around dawn, dusk, and even in broad daylight



# NEWS



## *On the route to ordination.*

*Jim Kelland has successfully passed his Stage Two of the Church of England Ordination process.*

*So big congratulations to Jim as he looks forward to the next stage - being appointed a deacon by Bishop*

*Joanne in the New Year.*



**Make and  
Mingle**



*Beverley says; "Our next meeting is on  
Wednesday 12 AUGUST from 1.30pm to  
3.30pm."*

# MAKE & MINGLE

From 1.30pm to 3.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall on the second Wednesday monthly.

Beverley says: "This is an opportunity for us to come together for two hours to Make and/or Mingle.  
"At our first meeting eight of us came together and we had a go at decoupage and some people worked on their own projects. Good conversations over tea and biscuits.



**Next meeting 12 August at 1.30pm**

Knitting, crochet, sewing, cross stitch, tapestry, decoupage, banner making or anything you enjoy making. Bring your own craft project to do while chatting, share your skills with others and just have fun or come and have a go.  
If you are not into craft making just come and enjoy some company.  
*Open to all - No charge just a donation towards tea and coffee.*  
**REGARDS AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! BEVERLEY**



***Bishop Joanne says: "I stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters and reassure them of my care and support."***

Following the arrest of 12 people with the possible threat to the UK Ijtima event at Shrubland Hall, in Barham, the Rt Rev Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell, Bishop of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese and a House of Lords member, said:

*"I encourage us all to stand against anti-Muslim violence and anti-Muslim hatred, and indeed any actions or words that create fear and prevent the peaceful coexistence of people of different faiths across Suffolk."*



*Sunshine abounds as Rev Sally conducts Daniel and Mia's wedding at St Mary's on 11 July.*



*Instant Nostalgia Dept.,*



# **CAPEL SCARECROW TRAIL**

## **2026**

*Jim Hill reveals the Trail winners:*

(left) Oakley Apperley - *Child Friendly Winner* (his Mum is quite happy to have his photo used online)



(right) Chloe Askew - *Main List Winner*



(Above & right) *Favourite Scarecrow 1st* - "You're gonna need a bigger boat."



(Left)

*Winners Favourite Scarecrow* - The Warden Family



(Left) *Favourite Scarecrow 2nd* - Can you figure this out?



The Friends of St Mary's  
Registered Charity Number 286971

Scarecrow Trail – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### RESULTS SHEET

This year sadly, we only had 33 Scarecrows. Quite a drop from last year's 47 but in a way a good thing as it was so very, very hot for the first three days of the Trail. Unfortunately with Capel covering such a large area, it did leave some quite big gaps between Scarecrows as several people commented.

**CHILD FRIENDLY WINNER** We had four all correct Child Friendly Entry Forms returned; and they were from Arlow, Madaline, Oakley Apperley, and Theo. The four names went into "The Hat" and Oakley's came out so he won the box of Celebrations. We awarded consolation prizes of small packs of sweets to the other three children.

**MAIN LIST WINNER** We had a total of ten 100% correct entries returned, and they were from Alison Bateman/ Amy Lock/ The Kirk Family (Beam me up Scotty - Sorry)/ Chris Hill/ Tanya, Nasser & Ellie (last year's winners)/ Rachel, the Halls & Erin/ Nicola Greenacre/ Carol Albins/ Chloe & Sue Askew/ and finally Heidi & David Wyncoll. Unfortunately we only had one "tin" of sweets, so the names went into "The Hat" again and out came Chloe & Sue Askew, so they got the Celebrations.

**FAVOURITE SCARECROW** This was pretty much a two horse race with 50% of the vote being split between them, and the other 50% being split pretty evenly amongst the other ten nominees.

So in first place with 31% of the votes was "You're gonna need a bigger boat" (*Jaws*) by the Warden Family at Green Vale, Days Road, who got a box of chocs.

In second place with 19% of the votes was "Can you figure this out?" (The figure skater) by the Holton Family at 16 Mowlands.

Fortuitously Mo accidentally hit the 2 instead of the 1 on her Tesco order so we had an extra "tin" of Celebrations which went to them.

**RETIREMENT** As well as the number of Scarecrows falling, so unfortunately are the sales of Entry Forms, steadily from almost 300 five years ago to well under 100 this year.

This obviously also affects our "Tea or coffee and a cake" sales in the Church Hall which have fallen from just over £250 three years ago, to just over £90 this year.

As the main objective of the Scarecrow Trail is to raise money for the repair and improvement of St Mary's Church, Mo and I feel that the results have deteriorated to the point where they just don't warrant the effort not only of ourselves, but also the ladies who make the cakes and give up their time on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon to serve them, and of course the people who make the Scarecrows, without whom the Trail would not exist.

So we have decided that 2026 will be the last year that we will organise it, and after seven years we are going to take our second retirement.

**THANKS** for the last time, particularly to everyone who made a Scarecrow through the years, we hope you enjoyed making them and devising those sometimes tortuous clues, and also to all those who took part in the Trail, we know that many of you really enjoyed it and will miss it.

Thanks also to Capel Co-op, Bypass Nurseries Garden Centre, Capel Library, and for many years Drayton Insurance, for selling the Entry Forms, and to In Touch, Look Magazine, The Link and Capel Capers (online), for advertising it, and to the Primary Schools at Capel St Mary, Tattingstone, Stratford St Mary, Bentley and Copdock and Robin's Childcare, for putting it on their Parents Emails/Websites, and everyone else who puts up a poster, for their help in publicising The Trail.

Special thanks to the team of stalwart volunteers who made the cakes, buns and biscuits and dispensed the tea, coffee and cakes on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Thanks again to everyone who helped. Mo & Jim

*It may well be that the Law of Diminishing Returns has finally applied to Capel Scarecrow Trail - as it does to all such events. And certainly the excessive heat over the scarecrow days was not conducive for people to stroll around the village.*

*However, the Friends of Capel Church and indeed the whole village of Capel St Mary owes a huge debt of gratitude to Jim and Mo for creating and running one of the most significant and enjoyable social events in recent years. WELL DONE TO YOU BOTH!*

*(Check out the full results and answers on page 32)*



***ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY***

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Doors open at 2pm for 2:30pm**

**Jane & Julie**



We are excited to welcome sisters Jane & Julie to St Mary's Church, Bentley. They enjoy performing together playing various instruments including the saxophone, trombone, flute, recorders and the clarinet.

They cover a wide variety of music, with over 700 songs in their repertoire throughout the decades.

Come and join us for a great afternoon of musical entertainment and chat.

Ticket price includes refreshments – All proceeds to St Mary's

**Tickets £10 from**  
**[bentleychurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:bentleychurchevents@gmail.com)**

With thanks to Alison Partridge



# Burstall Horticultural Society

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## 71st ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW, FETE, CLASSIC VEHICLES & FUN DOG SHOW

To be held in  
The Village Hall IP8 3DR  
and adjoining meadow on

**SATURDAY 1st August 2026**  
**from noon**

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## LADIES MEETING POINT



*Ondra says:*

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 4 August** when Ken Stone will tell us more **Royal Stories** plus show us original photos that he takes.

Ken is an avid Royal Watcher/ Follower and following his last visit to us, I'm sure he'll have more interesting photos to share with us.

All ladies welcome.

We'll meet as usual at 7.30 in the Church hall.

Ondra





## Make and Mingle



*Beverley says;*

*"Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12 AUGUST from 1.30pm to 3.30pm."*

## MAKE & MINGLE

*From 1.30pm to 3.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall on the second Wednesday monthly.*

Beverley says: "This is an opportunity for us to come together for two hours to Make and/or Mingle.

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If you are not into craft making just come and enjoy some company.

*Open to all - No charge just a donation towards tea and coffee.*

**REGARDS AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! BEVERLEY**



**ROCK 2 POP VISITS  
DOVE CLOSE**

*Come and join us at  
Dove Close (Capel St  
Mary)*



to enjoy a musical evening with



**ROCK 2 POP**

*Listen to: Popular  
rock and Pop covers*



Friday 21 August 7.00pm start

Free Entry and there will be  
refreshments and a raffle.  
call Carolyn on 01473 310032

For more info please







**Pre Loved  
Clothes**

**Accessories  
Bags &  
Shoes**

# **FASHION SHOW**

**Friday 11th September**

**7.30 PM**

**St Mary's church Capel St Mary**

**Tickets: £5** Include a glass of Prosecco on arrival...

**Tickets from: Sue 07773042910 or Julie 07539249234**



## ***RIDE 'N' STRIDE***

Cyclists, walkers, vintage and classic car owners and even horse-riders, can start to plan their route for Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive day, which will be held on **Saturday**

**12 September**. Details of how to get involved are now in churches and on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust website - or even better by contacting to **Jean Goyder**.



**Don't forget! The volunteers sitting in churches as welcomers can be sponsored too.**

**Ideal for a church taking part who doesn't have anyone to Ride or Stride on their behalf.**



**CHURCH PHOTO COMPETITION 2026:** Open to all ages, we need two photos (one of your favourite church or church feature **and** one of you on your journey). They must be taken on Ride and Stride Day - Saturday 12 September - as you take part in the event. **CLICK [HERE](#)** for details

The annual Sponsored Ride and Stride is a national event, and every second Saturday in September cyclists, walkers and runners are out making money for their local county Churches Trust.



### ***Jean explains:***

The idea started in Suffolk, and is now held across England, with Suffolk leading the table of funds raised (over £200,00 last year). The Ride and Stride is the main source of income to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust to enable it to make grants to churches and chapels of all denominations towards repair and restoration costs.

Ride and Stride is run entirely by volunteers and is inter-denominational, with participants sponsored for each place of worship visited between 9.00am and 5.00pm on Ride and Stride Day or with a donation, regardless of the number of churches visited.

***The money raised by each cyclist or walker is shared equally between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and the place of worship nominated by the participant.***

As important as the participants are the many volunteers who give up the day to man the churches and chapels and sign in the cyclists and walkers as they arrive. Hundreds of places of worship are manned during the day and that takes quite a team of volunteers! It is a real community effort that is the lifeblood of the Trust.



# PILGRIMAGE OF SONG

Saturday, 19 September 2026 - Blythburgh to Southwold

Christina says: "Cantus Firmus, the Christian project choir based in Suffolk and Essex, is doing another one of its wonderful Pilgrimages of Song."



It's a day of walking through the beautiful Suffolk countryside around Southwold. Usually, the route takes in several churches, with a short reflective service held in each one.

There is a communal meal at the end of the day (optional). We bring a packed lunch, and usually churches on the way provide refreshments.



**You do NOT need to be an experienced choral singer to take part!**

The day is open for all, so if you sing hymns in church or sing in the shower, you'd be absolutely fine.

On the online form, just tick the box that best describes your voice, e.g. alto or bass.

You do not have to walk all the way - you'll see information on this on the online form.

You can find information here:

<https://cantusfirmus.org.uk/events/pilgrimage-of-song-southwold.html>

and the booking form is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzNb4EHCd1h9X50Vpw02GoIXpbO6gvRiHgHUjgZCgGZOrIPg/viewform>

I've been to many of these over the years, and they are always really lovely.

Christina



NEW FOR 2026

*COMING SOON*

**The ALPHA'bet Bundle**

A-Z of Natural Treats

One unforgettable chewing challenge.

Can your dog complete the Alpha'bet Challenge?

Get 10% Off  
Your First Order  
With Code 'ALPHA10'

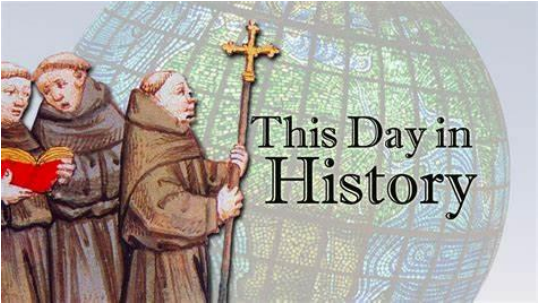
 **ALPHA**  
**DOG SUPPLIES**

[www.alphadogsupplies.co.uk](http://www.alphadogsupplies.co.uk)

NATURAL • HEALTHY • ETHICAL



*With thanks to Diane*



**26 JULY 1909**

***Bleriot Flies the Channel***

A gentle south-west breeze and some early morning mist that should soon clear: conditions are perfect. None the less, Louis Bleriot is nervous as he climbs into his flimsy monoplane in a field near Calais at 4.00am this morning in 1909.



Red flames streak the darkness as the 28hp Anzani motor shatters the calm. He takes off and as the day breaks, swings north out to sea, to England - and the supreme aviation challenge of the age.

Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the Daily Mail, has offered £1,000 to the first person to fly the

English Channel. With height and speed records being broken almost daily, the challenge now is sustained flight.

Engines are underpowered and unreliable, and flying machines seldom stay airborne more than a few minutes.

Bleriot knows his journey will last at least 30 minutes - over water. But of all aviation landmarks so far, this is the big one: lucrative, international, geographically significant. Whoever claims this prize is in the history books.

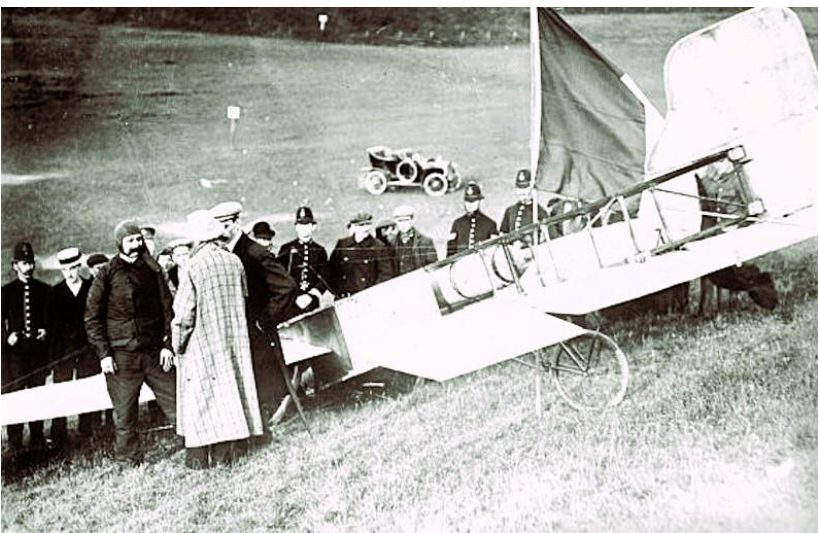
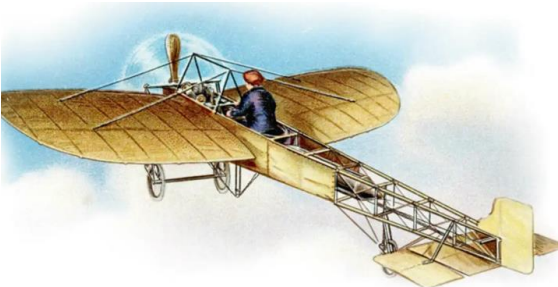
Flying some 250 feet above the water at 40 mph, Bleriot rapidly catches and overtakes his escort, the French destroyer Escopette.

*"The moment is supreme, yet I surprised myself by feeling no exultation,"* he recalls. By mid-channel the wins is getting up - as is the mist. *"I turn my head to see whether I am proceeding in the right direction.....there is nothing to be seen - neither the destroyer, nor France, nor England. I am alone. I can see nothing. For ten minutes I am lost."*

With no map or compass to follow, the strengthening wind blows him off course. After 20 minutes - about the time that the engine of his arch-rival, Hubert Latham, failed on his attempt last week - a timely shower cools the overheating Anzani.

*"Then I saw the cliffs of Dover!...The wind had taken me out of my course. I turned and now I was in difficulties, for the wind here by the cliffs was much stronger and my speed was reduced as I fought against it."*

Clawing his way over dry land he tries to descend but the wind catches him and whips the machine around. He cuts the engine. *"The landing gear took it rather badly; the propeller is damaged, but my word, so what?"*



**I HAD CROSSED THE CHANNEL!"**

And so it ends, for Britain, centuries as an island fortress, protected by the greatest navy in the world. The military and political establishments are speechless.





## *Melissa's Suffolk Nature Page*

### *The joy of sunset beside slow-moving water with a G&T in hand*

In parts of Suffolk the wheat harvest is underway and the barley, peas and rapeseed are likely to follow soon after. Harvest began earlier

this year than last, but at about the same time as in 2022, and not as early as in 2018.

If you remember singing 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' at school or church Harvest Festival in autumn, you'll know that harvest time once came much later in the year, in August and September.

It's not climate change, this time, that's brought it forward: for centuries, fields were rested over winter when the land was too wet or frozen to work, and crops weren't drilled again until spring.

But new cereal varieties and farm machinery, plus artificial fertilisers, means that many crops can now be sown in autumn, not long after harvest, which means they ripen sooner.

Incidentally, modern wheat and barley is also much shorter than it was a hundred years ago, something which helps it better withstand wind and rain.



### *Protection from the bugs*

Last night my neighbour Charlotte and I took a few cans of premixed G&Ts and a big bag of crisps and went to sit by the slow-moving river as the sun sank in the West; due to the current manifestation of the climate emergency it's the only time of day when it's felt comfortable to spend time outside.

As I am irresistible to insects, and it is not only mosquito but deer fly season, I covered myself in Smidge with added rings of roll-on DEET around my wrists, neck and ankles; I also had leggings and socks on for the occasion, which felt frankly unpleasant.

Charlotte was wearing a tee, cutoffs and flip-flops, and no repellent. The world is not built on a principle of fairness, as I have often had cause to reflect.

Still, neither of us were bitten, which is the main thing.

Damselflies and demoiselles hawked the shady water, and one came to rest on an overhanging twig at eye height where it curled and extended its abdomen several times as though enjoying a stretch before bed.



Distantly a young kestrel chattered, begging its parents for food. Rooks gathered in the willows and poplars above us, their chatter reaching a crescendo and then suddenly, as the sun dipped below the horizon, falling quiet.

**Intimacies**

*We gossiped and exchanged news, much like the rooks, and we talked too of bereavement and loss, the failing light lending itself to intimacies, the water gently carrying our words away.*

As we walked home at gone ten o'clock the moon hadn't risen and the sky to the West was still light. Moths glimmered above the meadows and from a couple of the houses in the village shone friendly yellow lights.

Alert for glow-worms, I checked the water stations I've set up here and there for wildlife before a fit of giggles seized us in the churchyard, briefly doubling us over.



Reaching the road we dropped our voices to a murmur as we passed our neighbours' open windows, and then we parted and left the village to the thirsty, heat-struck creatures, and the night.



*Melissa Harrison is a novelist, children's author, journalist and nature writer. She contributes a monthly Nature Notebook column to The Times, and also writes regularly for the Guardian and the New Statesman. She lives in Suffolk.*



# ST MARY'S PRAYER LIST



## PRAYER LIST 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026

We pray for the medical and humanitarian needs in Venezuela after further earthquakes.

We pray for the military conflict between the United States and Iran, severe regional instability and mounting economic and environmental pressures.

We continue to pray for the war in Ukraine and also for David Jacobs as he bravely travels to and from Ukraine.

### LONG TERM SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Pat Gladwin, Becky Carpendale, Rachael Martin, Brenda Green, Zoe & family.

### SICK

Kevin Austin, Penny & David Thompson, Rev. Stephne, Molly & Mike Johannesen, Sandy Mansfield, Geoff Cox, Pauline Stark, Andrew Skinner, Barbara Rogers, Doreen Parker, Eric & Sandra Doe, Malcolm & Chris Fenn, Angie Heath, Jane Hubert, Canon Jim Pendorf & Sharon Pendorf, Glyn Terry, Sue Dale and Lisa Manning

### FOR THOSE MAKING A RECOVERY

Shirley Streatfield, Laura Towells, Peter Ellis (Methodist), Norman Peartree, Rev. Adrian & Rosie Waller.

### FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Theresa Barrett

Please contact Maureen Hill [mo.hill02@live.co.uk](mailto:mo.hill02@live.co.uk) for new entries - or if people have made a recovery.

And with thanks to St Mary's Prayer Team



ST MARY'S HALL BOOKINGS

With thanks to Valerie Franklin

| Sunday                                                        | Monday                                                          | Tuesday                                            | Wednesday                                                                         | Thursday           | Friday | Saturday      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
|                                                               |                                                                 |                                                    | 1                                                                                 | 2                  | 3      | 4             |
| JULY                                                          |                                                                 |                                                    | 10.00 Midweek Communion<br>17.00-20.00 Street Dance                               | 9.30-10.30 Pilates |        |               |
| 5                                                             | 6                                                               | 7                                                  | 8                                                                                 | 9                  | 10     | 11            |
| 10.45 Communion<br>Rev Sally<br>12.00 Christening             | 10.00-12.30 Art Club<br><br>18.15-19.30 Brownies                | 18.00-19.00 Rainbows<br>19.30 Ladies Meeting Point | 10.00 Midweek Comm<br>13.30 – 15.30 Make & Mingle<br><br>17.00-20.00 Street Dance | 9.30-10.30 Pilates |        | 12.00 Wedding |
| 12                                                            | 13                                                              | 14                                                 | 15                                                                                | 16                 | 17     | 18            |
| 10.45 Communion<br>Rev Sally<br><br>14.30-17.30 Irish Dancing | 10.00-12.30 Art Club<br><br>18.15-19.30 Brownies                | 18.00-19.00 Rainbows                               | 10.00 Midweek Communion<br><br>17.00-20.00 Street Dance                           | 9.30-10.30 Pilates |        | 16.00 Wedding |
| 19                                                            | 20                                                              | 21                                                 | 22                                                                                | 23                 | 24     | 25            |
| 10.45 Family Service<br>Led by Julie                          | 10.00-12.30 Art Club<br>14.00 Comp Cafe<br>18.15-19.30 Brownies | 12.30 Lunch Club<br>18.00-19.00 Rainbows           | 10.00 Midweek Communion<br><br>17.00-20.00 Street Dance                           | 9.30-10.30 Pilates |        |               |
| 26                                                            | 27                                                              | 28                                                 | 29                                                                                | 30                 | 31     |               |
| 10.45 Communion<br>Rev Sally                                  | 10.00-12.30 Art Club<br><br>18.15-19.30 Brownies                | 18.00-19.00 Rainbows                               | 10.00 Midweek Communion<br><br>17.00-20.00 Street Dance                           | 9.30-10.30 Pilates |        |               |



## Scarecrow Trail Results:

## ANSWERS

| Answers | Address                                    | MAIN LIST                                            | CHILDREN'S LIST                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Anvil Cottage, London Road                 | My colour is my name                                 | Green Man                                  |
| 2       | 22 White Horse Road                        | You ain't never had a friend like me                 | Aladin's Genie                             |
| 3       | 11 Long Perry                              | My parents' least favourite numbers                  | 6 7                                        |
| 4       | 14 Long Perry                              | Where has my sandwich gone?                          | Paddington Bear                            |
| 5       | 16 Mowlands                                | Can you figure this out?                             | Ice skater                                 |
| 6       | 13 Playfield Road                          | Is it Bill or is it Ben?                             | Flowerpot Man                              |
| 7       | 4 Bushey Close                             | Our tree is closer than you think                    | The Faraway Tree                           |
| 8       | 1 Little Grove                             | Sea rainbow                                          | Colourful octopus                          |
| 9       | 7 Chapel Close                             | Time for a break                                     |                                            |
| 10      | 27 The Street                              | Where is he?                                         | Where's Wally                              |
| 11      | Tudor House, 1a The Street                 | I am a real Scarecrow                                |                                            |
| 12      | 23 Barnfield                               | Will I ever get back to the Family Tree?             | Stick Man                                  |
| 13      | 16 Little Tufts, Samford Gardens           | Jack Sparrow                                         | Famous film pirate                         |
| 14      | 6 Glebe End                                | You look bad enough to eat!                          |                                            |
| 15      | 7 Broom Way                                | My 206 bones                                         | A skeleton                                 |
| 16      | 66 Thorney Road                            | Fairy Tale girl is waiting for her seven friends     | SnowWhite                                  |
| 17      | 3 Peters Grove                             | Bagpuss                                              | Bagpuss                                    |
| 18      | 2 Snowcroft                                | Wee wee wee, all the way home                        | This Little Piggy                          |
| 19      | 49 Thorney Road                            | I like using the phrase "Ohana"                      | Stitch                                     |
| 20      | 30 Thorney Road                            | POW! BAM! KAPOW!                                     | Batman                                     |
| 21      | 12 Aisthorpe                               | Reg Dwight                                           |                                            |
| 22      | 87 The Street                              | Murderer                                             |                                            |
| 23      | Green Vale, Days Road                      | You're gonna need a bigger boat                      | Big shark                                  |
| 24      | 1 Days Green                               | Popular Comic character                              | Dennis The Menace                          |
| 25      | 2 Roe Deer Drive, Saxon Mdw.               | You're a Wizard Harry                                | Hagrid                                     |
| 26      | 11 Roe Deer Drive, Saxon Mdw,              | Rumi and the friendly neighbourhood scarecrow        | Rumi from KPop Demon Hunters               |
| 27      | 18 Fox Earth Close, Saxon Mdw.             | Seek the pirate who's treasure is CLOSE to his chest | Pirate's treasure                          |
| 28      | Church Cottage, 134 The Street             | Rosie & Jim                                          |                                            |
| 29      | Church front steps                         | I am The Way, The Truth and The Life!                | Jesus                                      |
| 30      | Church - Robin's Childcare                 | Room On The Broom, Robins' Childcare style           | Room On The Broom, Robins' Childcare style |
| 31      | Church - St Mary's Prayer Grp              | The clue is in the poem                              |                                            |
| 32      | Church - Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School | Artemis 2                                            | Visit to The Moon                          |
| 33      | Church - Mo & Ondra                        | Custodian of The Planet                              | David Attenborough                         |

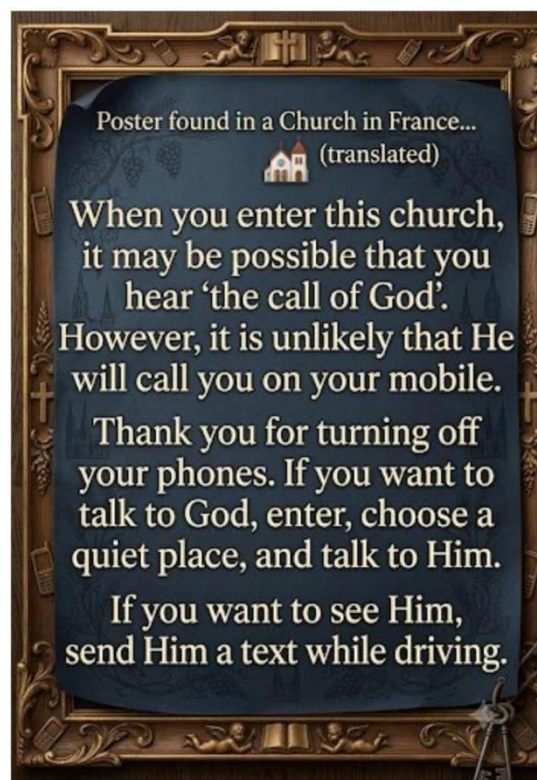
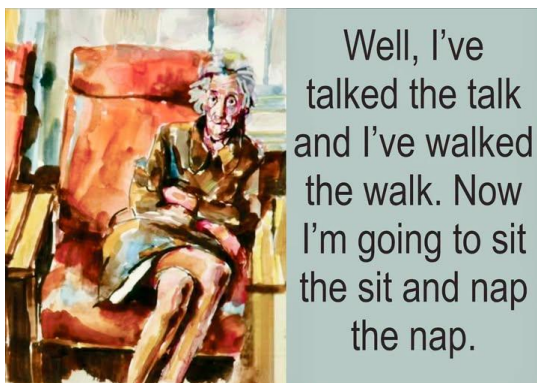


An apple a day  
keeps the doctor  
away—if you throw  
it hard enough!



RD

## FUNNY THINGS TO PONDER



**CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE  
MINISTERS**

Priest in Charge                      *Rev Sally Letman*                      311505

Church wardens

*@ St Mary's*                      *Mel Sutcliffe*                      310967  
*Valerie Franklin*                      314179

*@ St John's*                      *John Cresswell*                      311975  
*Diana Hunt*                      310441

Pastoral care

*@ St Mary's*                      *Rev Sally, Mo Hill and her team*

PCC Secretary

*@ St Mary's*                      *Jenny Hickley*                      310991

Hall bookings

*@ St Mary's*                      *Valerie Franklin*                      314179

Check out our website: [www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk](http://www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk)



## ***AND FINALLY- HOW WE INTERPRET THOSE CONFUSING PICTURES .....***

*"The wedding day went off very well - lots of guests, and we were especially happy that Uncle Adolf was able to attend before returning to Nuremburg..."*



*"The devil tries to tempt my Aunt Beth"*



*Dave was starting to think his mum wasn't coming back.....*



***EDITOR'S NOTE***

The Link Newsletter shall continue to be published electronically on a fortnightly basis - please let me know of any news or views you may have for inclusion in the magazine.

Please be sure to forward any items for news to the editor at:

[briancrogerson@btinternet.com](mailto:briancrogerson@btinternet.com)

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Kindly note that editorial and production attempts to reflect accurately all submissions; however apologies are readily offered for any errors in transmission.

All features & news items & opinions in The Link are introduced & published by the Editor and only the church service, readings and reflection and prayers are submitted & authorised by the Priest in Charge and the PCC officers unless otherwise highlighted in the text.

