



Reaching Out from the Cockfield Benefice

Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St
George w Lt Whelnetham,
Cockfield, Felsham & Gedding

**Issue 98
June 2021**

Dear friends

I hope that this month you won't mind me sharing with you an edited version my Rector's report that I gave at the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting that we held at Cockfield Church. It seemed quite strange holding our annual meeting only 7 months on from the last meeting, however, it was great to be able to all gather together in Cockfield Church for the joint meeting rather than separately.

The pandemic has defined the last 14 months of our lives. It has brought stress and anxiety. Loneliness and vulnerability, and in some, anger and depression. It has also brought about acts of deep human kindness and sacrifice. A greater respect of each and every person in our communities. For the ministry team and I these past months have seen frustration as well as fruit. Frustration in particular with mastering (or not!) the technology that has been required to livestream our weekly services. It has been a steep learning curve. We have been very lucky in this part of rural Suffolk, and we now look forward to the restrictions easing and being able to meet socially without fear. I hope that eventually we will be able to share the common cup once again when we make our communion.

We have come a long way in our benefice since I arrived in February 2012. We run a successful Messy Church for families and an annual holiday club for children. We have an 'Open the Book' team that brings bible stories to life in collective worship at Cockfield Primary School. We have a well-run over 60s group. The 'Worshipping Together' service which aims to think about the Christian Faith through informal worship is well established. Many volunteers have been through safeguarding training. Confident and committed Churchwardens collaborate across the benefice, and with the help of their local PCC and congregation care for 6 wonderful Church buildings, and they want to grow in number, depth and influence, and to bring younger people into our Churches. Our ministry team has grown and developed.

We have seen new vocations develop. It was wonderful to see Rev Richard Stainer deaconed and Christine Stainer to be licensed as our Children's and Families' Minister in September 2020. We are a small benefice, and yet we continue to pay the Diocesan Share which last year was around £68,000, and to maintain the buildings in our care, as well as pay the bills and give away a good deal of money to charities here at home and abroad to help those in need.

All in all, not a bad place to be. However, there is going to be change. Nothing ever remains the same, and this is true in Churches as well as in life. Many turn to the Church for stability and unchanging patterns of worship and social activity. This benefice is blessed with the Holy Spirit – and the Spirit is calling us into a new place, with new challenges. This year we have been asked by our Archdeacon to expand the boundaries of our benefice, and to welcome 3 villages from the next door benefice of St Edmund Way, which is having to be dissolved and is very sad for the members of that benefice.

Many of you are already aware of this scheme, and what it will bring to us. My hope is that by the Autumn, following consultation

with all PCC members we will have welcomed the people of the villages of Stanningfield, Bradfield Combust and Gt Whelnetham into our benefice along with another non-stipendiary curate plus another two Lay Elders. This will enable us to expand our ministry to meet the pastoral and worship needs of the communities that we serve. I also hope that we will be able to adopt the name of 'the Cockfield Benefice' as our official title.

Please pray as we enter this new period within the history of this benefice, that the Holy Spirit will guide us, and that the welcome that we give to all who enter our churches, and our communities, will be given to those parishes who will be joining us.

With love in Christ,

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter,

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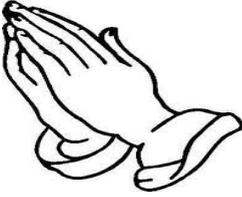
01284 828599 or 07825 086063



A Big Thank You from Christian Aid

We have been counting the money collected in Christian Aid envelopes and the total is £2,300 to which can be added £330 from the Gift Aid which will be claimed by Christian Aid. This is an amazing amount because it is the largest we have achieved ever. We expected a lower amount this year as we asked people to return their donations to central points rather than collected from their doors. A huge thank you to all who delivered envelopes and everyone who gave so generously! Brian Deards and Beryl Meed

Join us for prayer every week!



Praying together is vital for church life and growth, so we meet weekly for prayer as a Benefice. It's for just 30 minutes every Weds, 2.00-2.30 pm, meeting online via Zoom. The link will be the same each week, and it will also be given in the service sheets:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736217904?pwd=Y2VGK0UvQlpkZHFzTFE4NkE4bHFxQT09> . It's an enjoyable and informal time of sharing as well as praying, and you can pray aloud or silently as you wish. You'll be most welcome to come along and we hope that many more will want to do so!

Please pray for those who have been elected as Churchwarden this year.

Val Nunn & Isobel Payne – Bradfield St Clare

Lynn Cardale & Christine Stainer – Bradfield St George w Lt Whelnetham

Norman Kelly & Dave Smith – Cockfield

David Williams & Brian Deards – Felsham

James Morgan – Gedding

They will be 'sworn in' at the Archdeacon's visitation, which this year will be on 'zoom' on Wednesday 9 June at 7.15pm. We welcome Val and Isobel as new Churchwardens at St Clare, and hope that they will enjoy their new responsibilities!

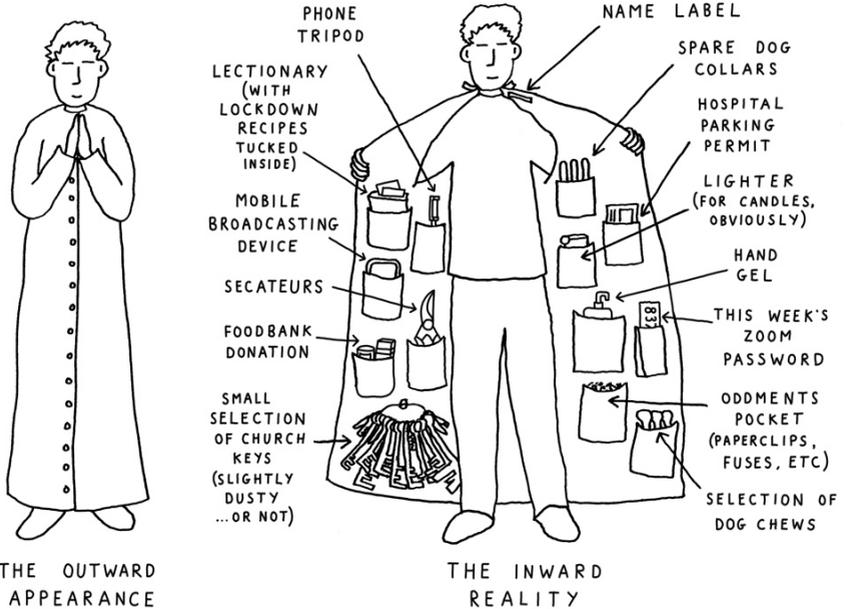
If you'd like to join the zoom service to support your warden, the link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92263937592?pwd=UVFjTjBpclhTWVdSTS9KMG9Xd0lZZz09>

Please pray also for all the PCC members, the Treasurers and PCC secretaries!

One of the joys of being ordained is ordering and wearing clerical vestments, including the cassock! I thought that you would like the cartoon below which shows you what we clergy secrete into our robes!

THE CASSOCK



CartoonChurch.com

On Saturday 3rd July, Helen Grover (our new SSM curate) and Mark Hinde (our new AOP curate from Stanningfield) will be ordained deacon, and on Sunday 4th July Rev Richard will be ordained priest at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Please pray for them as they prepare for the service, and for the new phase in their ministry. We are so very lucky to have them, and I look forward to welcoming them into the team!

A Bradfield St George Church fundraiser

You are invited to an

Open Garden

at West Lodge

Bradfield St George IP30 0DL

Saturday July 3 2021

10am—4pm

Home made cakes, drinks & filled rolls

Book stall

Honey from West Lodge hives

Jazz band

Produce stall

Admission by donation

Everyone welcome

A covid 19 safe environment





Bradfield St George Church
and
West Suffolk Hive Eco Family Centre
Bradfield St George



Invite you to

A wildlife hunt in the churchyard

Sunday 6 June 12—4pm

Monday 7 June 10 –12

In the churchyard Church Road, IP30 0DH

Family event (no dogs please)

- **Tea, coffee soft drinks**
- **Homemade cakes & biscuits**
- **Bring your own picnic**

Free entry

- * **A chance to view (and use!) the new toilets in the church**
- * **Find out about The Hive's activities which include: family activities, refill service for essential household items and much more**
- * **Enquires:** Email: westsuffolkhive@gmail.com or 07443626499 or 01284 388175

Bradfield Nights BBQs restart on Friday **9th July 7 - 11pm**, all welcome at Bradfield St George Village Hall!



We are pleased to announce the return of the Cockfield St Peter's Summer Lunch, **Saturday 17 July 2021** at The Old Rectory, Cockfield. Tickets £17.50 from Norman Kelly 01284 828904, Dave Smith 01284 828239 or Mike Swiney 01284 828652.

Cockfield Benefice Services – June 2021

please see website for up-to-date information

Online services can be found on our Benefice Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/cockfieldbenefice/live/>

All services are conducted in line with the coronavirus guidance issued by the Church of England, for more information visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance>

Wednesday 2 nd June	Wednesday Worship available on Facebook
Sunday 6 th June Trinity 1	10am Communion – Bradfield St George 10am Communion – Cockfield (& online) 6pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 13 th June Trinity 2	8am Communion BCP – Cockfield 10am Morning Prayer BCP – Gedding 10am Communion Bradfield St Clare (& online)
Sunday 20 th June Trinity 3	10am Communion – Cockfield 10am Family@Felsham (& online)
Sunday 27 th June Trinity 4	10am Communion BCP – Gedding 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George (& online) 6pm Evening Celtic Communion - Felsham

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am

Benefice prayer every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736217904?pwd=Y2VGK0UvQlpkZHFzTFE4NkE4bHFxQT09> (Meeting ID: 867 3621 7904, Passcode: 456146 if needed).

visit www.cockfieldbenefice.com for up-to-date service times