

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

Village Activities & News | St Mary's Church | Local Clubs & Events

New editor

Step forward - don't be shy! A new editor for this paper is required from the summer. All enquiries for this very enjoyable community role to be made to the Parish Clerk

Nicola Smith
prestonpcclerk@gmail.com

No experience necessary & all help given to pick up the reins of this bimonthly publication

Jenny Antill moves on

After her election success as a Sudbury town councillor on 20th January, Jenny Antill will step down from her role as our village's County Councillor in May. She has been very involved in and helped with many local projects & issues and we wish her well in her new role

The Six Bells

Valentine's Day at The Six Bells, Tuesday 14th February. For all you romantics out there, book a table for dinner and receive a complimentary glass of Prosecco on us! Simply call today to make your reservation: 01787 247 440 or email: reservations@thesixbellspreston.com and quote 'PPN'.



Christmas Eve Service

Our pretty village church of St Mary's was packed to the rafters early in the evening on Christmas Eve to take part in the wonderful inclusive Childrens' Service conducted by the Revd. Stephen Earl. As in years gone by, the first carol was sung by candlelight before the lights were switched on, illuminating many children dressed in an array of animal and biblical costumes. Robin Lloyd Hughes provided the narrative for a retelling of the nativity story from the perspective

of various creatures with an intrepid member of the Springall family, dressed as a shepherd, braving the steps up to the window above the pulpit. Beautiful singing & music was provided by the Huggett, Whymark, Burman families & others.



Friends of St Mary's

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN	Kerrie McGrory	montyone1@hotmail.com
CLERK	Nicola Smith	prestonpcclerk@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

RECTOR	Rev'd Stephen Earl	247244	earls2222@btinternet.com
CHURCHWARDENS	Janet Martin	249020	janet.martin@btconnect.com
	Keith Davis	247112	keithhdavis@btinternet.com

Friends of Preston St Mary Church

CHAIRMAN	Janet Martin	as above
SECRETARY	Laura Ashford	247069 laursash1@yahoo.co.uk

Village Hall

CHAIRMAN	Annie Mason	247100	ranniemason@btinternet.com
SEC./BOOKINGS	Sue Diggins	247810	sdiggins2rda-east.org.uk

Art Group

Monday mornings, 3 terms of 12 weeks

NEW MEMBERS	Jim Wilkins	248233	jimwilkins97@aol.com
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Ladies Group

Informal gatherings arranged for most months of the year, usually on Mondays

CO-ORDINATOR	Anne Springall	247156	annespringall@gmail.com
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Book Club

CO-ORDINATOR	Caroline Gove	247786	thosegoves@aol.com
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Table Tennis

Thursday evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall

CO-ORDINATOR	Dave Williams	williams.jackdaws@btinternet.com
The Six Bells Pub	247440	reservations@thesixbellspreston.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Sue Cawston	247189	kishcash@tiscali.co.uk
Mervyn Cochrane	247810	

Preston St Mary Parish Paper

News of events & village life, distributed free to every household, bi-monthly

EDITOR	Caroline Gove	247786	pstmppaper@gmail.com
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Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston	01449-740254	Lavenham	378226
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Local Councillors

Suffolk County Council	Jenny Antill (Con)	378310	jenny.antill@suffolk.gov.uk or jennyantill@antill.com
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Babergh District Council	Clive Arthey (Ind)	211316	clive.urthery@babergh.gov.uk or clive.lindsey@tiscali.co.uk
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Community Liaison Officer	Cally Boardman	cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk
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PCSO Laura Mansell Non emergency number 101

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

Mothering



Sunday

Family Service

**11.30 am Sunday 26th
March 2017**

**All children, parents, grandparents,
family and friends are most welcome.**

Optional Mothering Sunday Pub Lunch at the SIX BELLS
after the service. Bookings must be made in advance
by the END OF FEBRUARY to ensure space is reserved.

Those interested should ring
Janet Martin (01787 249020) or Jim Wilkins (01787 248233)
for further details which will be available shortly.

Friends of St Mary's

The Friends of Preston St Mary Church

This is a gentle reminder to all Friends who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2016/17 to send their remittances in favour of ***The Friends of Preston St Mary Church*** to me at Preston Hall, The Street, Preston St Mary, CO10 9NQ.

After 18 years of keeping the subs at the same price, the Committee decided it was time to increase the annual subscription to £10 in line with other similar Church Friends' Societies.

We have been very grateful to all of the Friends who have supported us in the past and helped to raise funds at events to keep our beautiful Church fabric in good order.

Our tiny congregation while managing to keep the Church running costs in the black, could not possibly hope to fund repairs and security costs which are increasingly onerous without the help of our very supportive Friends.

To that end, we are inviting all residents of the Village to become Friends and join our very friendly and hardworking group.

If you feel you would like to join or re-join do get in touch on 01787 249 020 or by email on janet.martin01@btconnect.com You may have already had a visit from one of our Committee members asking you to join as we hope to call on all village residents in the next few months who are not yet members.

The Rector has kindly offered to hold a service in the Church for the Friends, to celebrate their support of the Church which will be followed by a light lunch prepared by the Committee.

You don't have to be a regular Church goer to join the Friends, just a concerned resident who wants to keep our historic grade 2 listed building in good repair for future generations to have the right to baptisms, marriages and funerals conducted in their own parish Church.

I look forward to hearing from as many of you as would like to help by joining our group.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Martin

Chairman, Friends of Preston St Mary Church.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

100 CLUB

The final two draws for 2016 have been made and congratulations go to the following winners:

DRAW 3: 1 st :	Jim Wilkins	2 nd :	Matthew Diggins	3 rd :	Gary Elsdon
DRAW 4: 1 st :	Mat Shenton	2 nd :	Lavender Hawkins	3 rd :	John Cashmore

1st prizes are £25 each, 2nd prizes £15 each and 3rd prizes £10 each. No individual has won more than one prize this year, meaning that the 12 prizes have been widely distributed.

Of course, it won't be long before you get the dreaded knock on your door and open it to find a member of the committee seeking renewal of the subscription – just £4 per head that gives you a chance to win one of the 12 prizes in 2017 with a total treasure chest of £200. Many thanks in advance for taking part in this draw, which forms a valuable element of our overall fund-raising.

REPORT ON CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT

Some 35 competitors formed six teams to battle it out for our small but coveted trophy - the Preston St Mary version of The Ashes! The Busy Bees were aiming to hold on to it but were eventually beaten by a team with the name of Madjinski. All to play for going into the final round in which there were 20 points at stake and the winning team galloped through it with an alacrity that surprised everyone – including the quizmaster and the scorers. Worthy winners, the Bardzinski/Diggins/Mason combination can enjoy our hearty congratulations.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Many of you will have noticed the two mats that are rolled up in one corner of the Hall. We are now researching the acquisition of a set of bowls and other equipment, with a view to starting a Short Mat Bowls Club. Don't worry if you don't know the rules, because we don't know them either! A steep learning curve, but help has been offered through Julian Delefortrie, who now lives in Lawshall whose Short Mat Bowls Club have kindly offered to host a group of us one Monday afternoon – date to follow.

Our Club will probably meet during the daytime, so if anyone would like to participate in this form of gentle exercise and have a lot of fun doing so, please contact Dave Williams on 01787 248446. We can then decide which day would best suit those who are interested.

THE NEW FRONT WINDOWS

We have been delighted with the reaction to the new windows that were installed at the front of the Village Hall in November. (Thanks again to our County Councillor Jenny Antill and Babergh District Council for the grants, to Geoff Poole for design and

Village Hall

to Sky Windows for the installation – and to all who contributed through attending events at the Village Hall.)

Universal acclaim, with one comment being “Thank goodness they don’t have a gloss finish, as that would have looked awful. As they are, the satin finish looks very natural.” Other comments, unsurprisingly, allude to the extra warmth that seems to have become a feature of the Hall for those who are using it.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2017

None yet – tee hee! Don’t despair, though, as the committee will have met on 1st February to plot our offerings for the year. Let us know if you have any suggestions, either old favourites or fresh ideas.

ANNIE MASON, Chairman, 01787 247100

SUE DIGGINS, Secretary, 01787 247810

KEITH DAVIS, Treasurer, 01787 247112

Commonwealth War Grave Commission

An eagle eyed villager noticed that this plaque appeared recently at the entrance to our church. Further detection work revealed that it was placed in Preston to mark the grave of a Private D Fosker of the Suffolk Regiment who died on 25th March 1920, perhaps as a result of injuries sustained during the First World War, though this is not confirmed. His grave is on the south side of the churchyard. If anyone knows any more about this man, could you let the editor know at pstmppaper@gmail.com?



PRESTON ST MARY & DISTRICT LADIES CLUB

BEST WISHES FOR 2017 TO OUR MEMBERS

Meetings usually held on 2nd Monday in every month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall - unless stated otherwise.

New Members are always welcome so do come and join us. The annual subscription is only £10, and only £2 when you attend a monthly meeting, which includes raffle prizes and refreshment.

Upcoming meetings and Programme for 2017

Please note that the full programme for this year had not been finalised before this paper went to print, if anyone has any suggestions for the gaps, please let me know.

January

No Meeting

February 13th

Get Together Our first meeting of the New Year is an opportunity to mix and mingle and catch up with each other after the long break. Wine and nibbles will be served so that we can celebrate 2017 in style.

March 13th

Details to be advised

April 10th

WHO LIVED IN YOUR HOUSE? Roy Hollocks, who many of you will know is our local History Recorder for our village, will be displaying some of his vast collection of historical documents and photos about Preston St Mary. Although not a talk in the formal sense, he and his wife, **Janet**, will be very happy to answer any questions you might have about Preston St Mary, or about the house that you live in and who occupied it in the past. This short note does not do justice to Roy's seemingly inexhaustible knowledge of Preston St Mary. We are sure that this will be an evening of interest to all and are therefore are making it an **Open Evening** for everyone - so please do come along.

May 8th

Details to be advised

June 12th

Details to be advised

July 10th

Roaring 20's. Kate Hanlon has very generously agreed to bring her wonderful collection of 1920's and 1930's costumes, hats, and purses dating from this period, and also some accessories and jewellery. Some items you will be able to handle and others just look, because of their fragility. Kate will speak informally about how her collection came about and a little about one or two particularly interesting pieces, and will be happy to answer your questions. The summer evening light at this meeting should show off Kate's collection to perfection.

Village Clubs

August (14th ?) We usually have a Garden Meeting this month but I am trying to arrange a visit for our Members to Sandy Larkman's Studio and Garden for, perhaps, an afternoon of pottery. For those of you who might not know, Sandy is a brilliant potter and artist, and whose garden is an absolute delight. I am sure Members will find this a very interesting meeting. Unfortunately, I was not able to confirm the details about the date and time of the Studio visit before going to print, but I will let Members know individually, as soon as possible.

September 11th Details to be advised

October 9th **FILM NIGHT.** Janet Martin has once again very kindly agreed to host Film Night. This is always an enjoyable evening at Preston Hall.

November 13th Details to be advised

December **CHRISTMAS MEAL** - date and venue to be advised nearer the time

Report on Previous Meetings

Nov 14th 2016 **WHIST DRIVE.** We were 9 enthusiastic members who met to recreate the Whist Drives that were a very popular pastime in the Village Hall during the 1950's. With the patient help of Dudley and Annie Mason, who were obviously very familiar with this card game. We discovered that this activity was very absorbing once we got to grips with the rules - also it became very addictive. All in all, it was a very light hearted and entertaining evening.

Friday 2nd December, CHRISTMAS MEAL see *photo right* - 27 Members and their guests gathered for our Festive Christmas Dinner at the Six Bells Preston. Everyone was in party mood and there was a lovely atmosphere and plenty of laughter (*and silly paper hats*)

The Preston Social Club. I am hoping to arrange some interesting trips during the course of 2017. If anyone has any brilliant ideas for visits, please do let me know.



Contact Anne Springall on 01787 247156 or email annespringall@gmail.com for more information about any of our meetings

Village Clubs

Village people at Christmas



Shameless photobombing by Mervyn Cochrane as Richard Martin (who couldn't stand still to have his picture taken) presents the evening's raffle prize winner Sue Diggins -looking suitably horrified- with a bottle of fine wine at the Preston Ladies Christmas Dinner in The Six Bells in December.

Olivia and Christina Burman aged 14 & 12 years (with halos) singing a beautiful harmonised rendition of 'Halleluia' by Leonard Cohen during the Christmas Eve Service in St Mary's.



Our very own inimitable Village Hall quizmaster Keith Davis presenting Dudley Mason, captain of the triumphant team Madjinski (which sounds like a dodgy racehorse) with the coveted winners' golden trophy. A challenging but fair quiz in front of a sometimes rowdy crowd. Congratulations Madjinski. Keith may be good at compiling quiz questions but someone should tell him not to wear a room heater on his head: it's not clever and it's not funny.

The Parish Council have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor

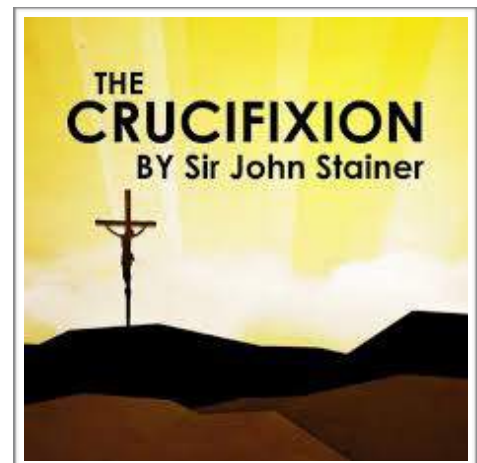
**For further information please contact the Clerk, Nicola
Smith on
07817 170906 or by emailing at
prestonpcclerk@gmail.com**

**We are holding a
“Come and sing Stainer’s Crucifixion”**

at Lavenham Church on

Good Friday 14th April, 2017 at 7pm

Singers and/or audience are welcome to
join us on the day. Singers will need to
attend a one hour rehearsal at 4.15pm on
the day of the performance.



I do hope many of you will join us for this marvellous re-telling of the
Easter story.

Details from petertryon@btinternet.com tel: 01449 736049

Thank you
Peter Tryon
Director of Music: Lavenham PC

News from Michael Porter in Force, Italy.

Former Church Warden and resident of Preston St Mary wrote in his Christmas card to
say that he was keeping well despite experiencing two earthquakes in Italy where he
now lives.

His house had undergone restoration work according to modern anti-quake bye-laws
so did not suffer the fate of the historic centre of Force and other old towns. Many
families are still living in temporary accommodation and no Church bells will ring out
until all the towers have been inspected.



Calling all artists!

*The Easter Art Trail is
coming!*

Members of Lavenham Church have organised an exciting event that will take place this coming Easter. Designed to be a community event that will attract all artists, whether amateur or professional, and especially children, the 'trail' will be made up from artwork based on the Easter story, along the lines of suggested 'themes and scenes', to be provided. The idea is to interpret the Easter stories using any medium - and to be as creative as you like! The overall size should not exceed 15½" x 11½" or 394mm x 292mm, which is roughly A3, as selected work will be framed and displayed to these dimensions.

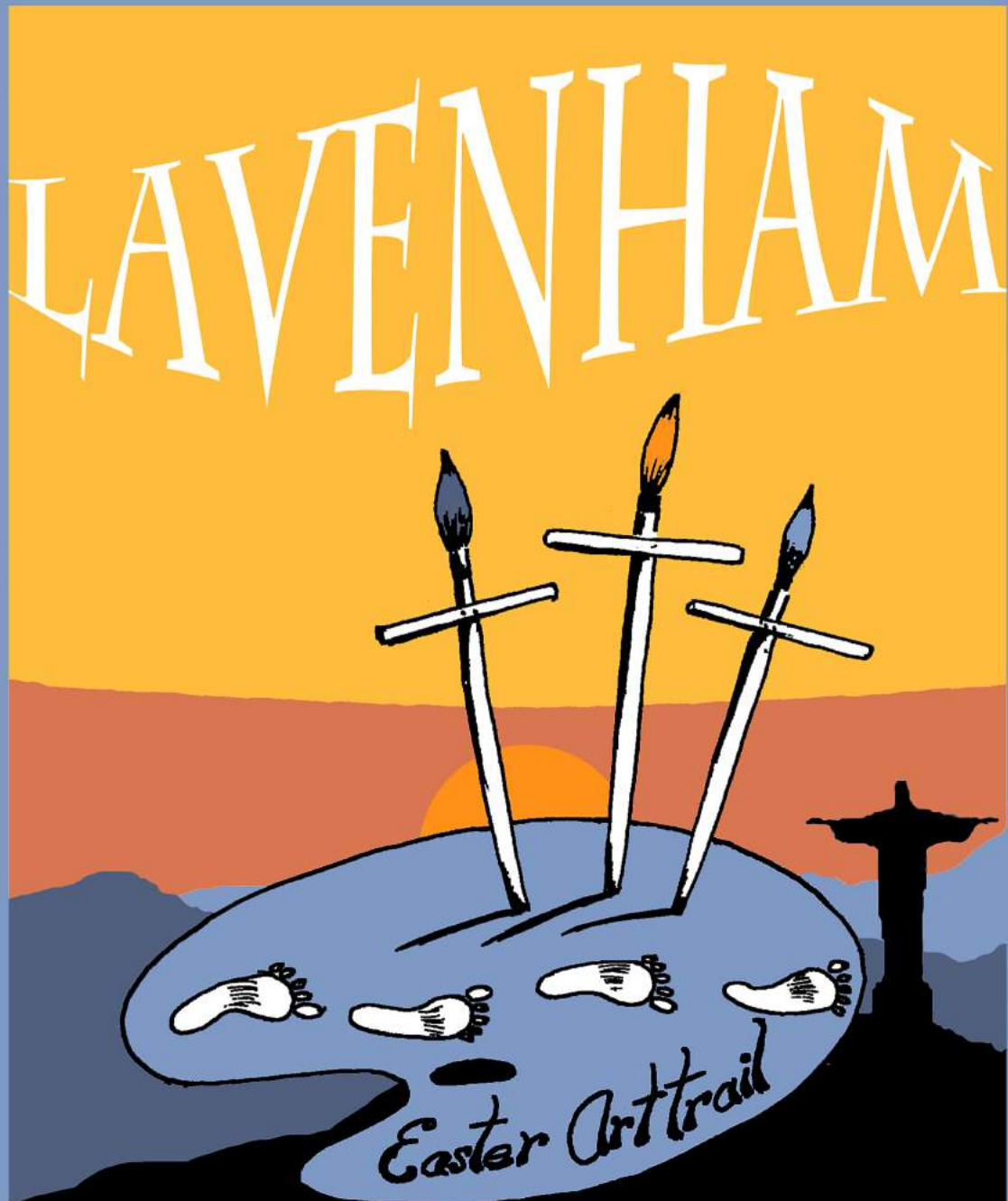
The *trail* will take place from 1st – 13th April, and a number of entries will be selected for display inside, or in the windows of, the various village shops, restaurants, and businesses. People interested in following the *trail* can collect trail maps from a variety of locations in the village, including the Church, Heeks, tourist office, the Guildhall or the library, and then follow the artwork trail. The idea is that as people follow the route, they vote for their two favourite pieces of artwork – one from the adult category and the other from the under 16s. Votes can then be 'cast' at the locations distributing the trail maps, and yours could be the winning vote in a free prize draw that will take place at the close of the event. The two pieces of artwork receiving the highest number of votes will be printed onto greetings cards, which will then be sold to raise funds for Lavenham pre-school.

At the end of the village trail, all entries will be exhibited in Lavenham church from 15th – 22nd April.

If you would like to take part, please note the closing date for entries is **27th February 2017**. Entries should be clearly labelled, with name, contact details, and age if under 16, plus the title of the work, and delivered to Pete Postle, 7 Hall Road, Lavenham CO10 9QU - or if you would like your work collected, then let us know. For further details, including a list of 'scenes and themes', please contact

Lynda – 01787 313769 or email: lynda@sebbage.com

We are enormously grateful to Cllr Jenny Antill, who has kindly awarded us locality funding to help towards this event.



ART TRAIL: 1ST - 13TH APRIL 2017

PUBLIC VOTE AND FREE PRIZE DRAW

EXHIBITION: LAVENHAM CHURCH

15TH - 22ND APRIL 2017

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT LYNDA:

EMAIL: LYNDA@SEBBAGE.COM

TEL: 01787 313769

LENT LECTURES 2017

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL

All meetings are in the 'Edmund Lecture Room' beginning at 7.30pm.
Refreshments are served from 7 pm. Admission free, donations welcome.

Tuesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4 April

A Rock in a Hard Place: Faith under Pressure

Critics of religion sometimes describe believers as inadequate people who need faith as a crutch to get them through life. By contrast believers often find that their faith is as much a challenge as a means of support. This Lent series enquires what happens to faith when it is put under different kinds of pressure.

Tuesday 7 March: Standing in the Gap: transactional faith for our times

A plague starts. Aaron is sent with his censer to stand between the living and the dead and the plague ceases. In whom is the God of the gaps now to be found?

Chris Chivers, the Principal of Westcott House, Cambridge, and Chair of USPG, explores this question to annunciate a global theology of hope for this, as for any age.

Tuesday 14 March: "Is this age yet?"

The life span has changed in a major way so it is easy to lose our bearings. Maybe we savour this gift of years or maybe it is worrisome – or maybe both. The greying of nations is both personal and political, and if we are wise it is also a spiritual matter.

Ann Morisy lives in south London and is a well-regarded writer and a widely travelled lecturer. Her presentations are down to earth but informed by scholarship as well as being engaging and light-hearted.

Tuesday 21 March: Jesus under pressure (1): Press and Pressure – drawing on

Gethsemane and the poetry of George Herbert, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Rowan Williams.

The gospels' accounts of Jesus in Gethsemane show how troubled he was immediately before his arrest, something that has long fascinated poets.

Malcolm Guite is a priest-poet and Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge. He lectures widely on the relationship between theology and literature. Among his writings is *Faith, Hope and Poetry* (2006), and he has edited *The Word in the Wilderness* (2014), an anthology of poetry for Lent.

Tuesday 28 March: The forgotten faithful: salt and light in the Middle East

The news is all about the disappearing and persecuted Christians of the Middle East. But what of those who remain, or hope one day to return? What does their faith look like under pressure?

Jeremy Moodey is the Chief Executive of Embrace the Middle East, the Christian development charity formerly known as BibleLands. He is a former diplomat and City investment banker.

Tuesday 4 April: Jesus under pressure (2): "Love, like Water"

Lazarus, Mary and Martha, and the Vulnerability of Jesus.

Jesus' response to the news of his friend Lazarus' illness in the gospel of John is intriguing. What does his delay tell us about the pressure he was under?

John Parr is the Parish Priest of Hadleigh with Layham and Shelley, and the author of *Credible Witnesses. What people thought of Jesus as revealed in John's Gospel* (2016).

Lent Course ~ 2017

- Open to all!
- No charge - just come along

TUESDAYS throughout Lent

† Salvation Army Hall

The Common, Lavenham

CHURCHES OF LAVENHAM & PRESTON ST MARY

arr. 9.45am refreshments for start 10.00am

(end by 11.30am)

7th March ~ A story from India

Introducing Discipleship

14th March ~ A story from Malawi

How shall we Live?

21st March ~ A story from Pakistan

Living with Difference

28th March ~ A story from South Africa

A World of Injustice

4th April ~ A story from England

Counting the Cost

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**7th , 14th , 21st , 28th , March & 4th
April**



Groups

The Brent Eleigh Village Spring Quiz

Will be held on **Saturday 11th March** at the newly renovated Village Hall and we would welcome participation from local villages for this 'always fun' event; do make up a table of a maximum of 8 to come along and join in! Good refreshments in the interval, all for £8 a ticket; bar and raffle naturally.

Do contact Miranda Elgar on mirandaelgar@gmail.com or 07401242179 to secure your table. (We also welcome bookings for parties and events to held in the Halls, at reasonable rates.)



Topical Tea and Controversial Coffee



Sounds a bit intense but we have a really great time putting the world to rights and sharing our opinions and interests over a snack. A good laugh is the best medicine they say, whoever they is. Well our health certainly benefits that way because we have lots of laughter doses. So, if you feel like having your say on a range of issues, now's your chance, especially if you are thinking outside the box. Come and give it a go. It is always **Thursday 10.00 to 12.00 at Hatherley Cottage**, or come and leave as you wish. Sometimes we are away so give us a call to check just in case **Judy and Chris 01787 247515**.

Spiritual Health

We hear a lot about the NHS and its problems coping with our physical health. There seems to be a lack of health care for mental health problems brought on by all sorts of life issues. But what about our spiritual health and are we too busy with the other problems to give it much attention? Our complex personalities need all these for robust health. So why not join us when you can to try and find some of those important answers. For example what does the statement 'You must be born again' really mean, and does it apply to me? Was John speaking to me when he said, 'You have become lukewarm'? What's it all about and will it make a difference? Google works, but it is so much better sharing face to face. Join us for a boost to your spiritual side, **second and fourth Tuesday** each month from **4 to 5pm at Hatherley Cottage**. Check as above before you come, **Judy and Chris on 01787 247515**.

Groups

Book Club

Twelve members of the Preston Book Club met in mid January for our post Christmas dinner at The Six Bells - where else? We discussed **'The Light Between Oceans' by M L Steadman**

A boat washes up on the shore of a remote lighthouse keeper's island. It holds a dead man and a crying baby. The only two islanders, Tom and his wife Izzy, are about to make a devastating decision. They break the rules and follow their hearts. What happens next will break yours.

Our next meeting is at Caroline's, Mortimers Barn, on **Thursday 9th February at 7.30pm** and we'll discuss **'A Foolish Virgin' by Ida Simons**: an intimate portrayal of familial strife set in the shadows of the Holocaust. We will also bring along ideas for classic reads that we have all enjoyed and could perhaps earmark to read in the future. More a chat than a tutorial!

The Art Group

Runs term times at 10am on Mondays in the Village Hall.

We currently have twelve members and have room for one or two more if anyone is interested. The cost for this term is £40. During the term we will be having a number of lessons with our tutor Mossy Kennedy, so beginners can be assured of good instruction and advice. It is a very informal and friendly group and you are assured of a warm welcome.



Anyone interested & for more details about term dates, please contact either
Judy Legg on 01787 24751 Jim Wilkins on 01787 248233

Lavenham & District Gardening Club



With the new year starting and spring almost within sight, the Club has a full line up of talks, social events and visits across the year and you are most welcome to come along, whether you have a passion for gardening or more a general interest! With an annual sub of just £8 and meeting fee of £2, which includes a coffee or tea and a raffle ticket, the costs are very reasonable.

Our next event is the New Year party on Tuesday 31st January with Classic Femme providing entertainment.

And on 28th February our AGM, a short one, we will be having a DVD about natural Tasmania to cheer a winter's night. In March, John Hewson will be sharing tips about selecting and preparing fruit and veg for shows, starting with the seeds! All meetings are held at the Lavenham Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

For more information do call **Michael Warner, Club Secretary on 01787-247615**

Groups

Save time and money when buying your heating oil

If you are one of over 46,000 households in Suffolk which is off the mains gas network, you could be saving money on your oil heating bill thanks to a local social enterprise.



Community Action Suffolk (CAS) runs a community buying scheme which has purchased over 2.1 million litres of oil in the last year. In this time, households saved an average of £60, higher volume users such as community groups have saved £100 and rural businesses have saved £321.

Despite recent record falls in oil prices, the scheme's members have still made a collective saving of over £70,000 in the past year, as heating oil is purchased in bulk. Oil deliveries are then planned to provide an environmental benefit, with one oil tanker making a single trip to several members, rather than numerous single trips to the same area. Not only is the tanker's fuel consumption reduced, but so is the heavy traffic through rural villages.

Natalie Lomas, Resources Officer at CAS, said:

"Our members simply like the low prices that we get for them. Since the scheme started, our prices have been consistently lower than the average prices our members would have paid independently.

"Members also appreciate the ease of the scheme, as they do not have the hassle of phoning around suppliers for quotes.

"We take orders from our members across Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and place bulk orders twice a month. We can also organise individual orders for members who miss a deadline, or find that they are running short."

Members are not required to place orders online in order to benefit from savings, as is often the way with similar schemes.

This is one way in which the scheme prides itself with customer service. One regular customer recently commented:

"Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for organising and providing this service, which continues to offer significant savings on heating oil purchases as well as proving to be very efficient in its operation and delivery, thank you."

As well as heating oil, the scheme also supplies members with Fuel Additive, Red Diesel, Gas Oil and LPG. Membership starts from just £20 per year and members have the option of placing orders via the website, by email, post or telephone.

**To become a member or for more information
visit www.communitybuying.org.uk or call 01473 345355 for a membership pack to
be sent to you.**



SUFFOLK BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT (SBS)

'Easing loss through group support'

Recently bereaved or experiencing a delayed reaction to loss?

Are you in need of help and support?

Why not consider joining a small focused group of 5-10 exploring bereavement issues?

Groups are led by an experienced facilitator creating a warm, safe environment in which to share the many aspects of loss.

Groups are free and open to Suffolk residents able to attend a venue in Hadleigh

For more details or to reserve a place contact Patrick or Margaret

Web site www.sbsg.eu
Email: sbsg246@gmail.com
Tel: 01206 299832

SBS is a not-for-profit charity working with 'Community Action Suffolk' to set up this new service
(registration CAS2398/16)

The Six Bells

Preston St Mary

Valentine's Day



Tuesday
14th February
From 6pm

Two courses £20 | Three courses £25

Simply call us today to make your booking:
01787 247 440 or email: reservations@thesixbellspreston.com

THE STREET PRESTON ST MARY SUFFOLK CO10 9NG
(THREE MILES FROM LAVENHAM)

01787 247 440 [THESIXBELLSPRESTON.COM](http://thesixbellspreston.com)

[f/SixBells](https://www.facebook.com/SixBells) [@The_Six_Bells](https://twitter.com/The_Six_Bells)

etmgroup.co.uk

COMMAND PEST CONTROL TELEPHONE: 01787 248049



Complete Pest Control service including Premises Contracts
Year Round Protection from Infestation • All Pest Control work undertaken

Pest Prevention:

Rat and mouse eradication and prevention of access to agricultural/
commercial and domestic premises/Insect control
Prompt service to Wasps/Hornets nests/Ants/Fleas/Cockroaches/
Mites/Silverfish/Flies etc



Mole control by all Ministry approved methods
Rabbit control and rabbit proof fencing

Property Care:

Woodworm/Deathwatch beetle/Damp proofing
30 Year Bonded Guarantee available



Insect Control:

Fly control units, electric and adhesive
Stockists of all leading brands
Replacement tubes and servicing carried out to all units
Secondhand units available
Flyscreens/chain curtains/plastic strip curtains

Bird Control:

Bird control to public, commercial and domestic buildings
Bird proofing to any situation
Cleaning contracts – Public buildings etc



Grain Handling:

Fumigation to grain and other commodities
Grain store cleaning and pre-harvest
Insecticidal treatment
Monitoring of stored grain and supply of all relevant equipment



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Private treatment is provided in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere by Preston resident Mrs. Hua Sands MSc MCSP MAACP, who has been trained in acupuncture in China and the UK, is qualified as a Physiotherapist to Master's level in the UK, and has worked as a Senior Physiotherapist in the NHS. Treatments depending upon your condition may include exercises, manual therapy, ultrasound and/or acupuncture.

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Sudbury & District

New Advice Citizens Advice Bureau 'Drop in' services in Lavenham

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Venue: Lavenham Village Hall

Time: 09.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

No Appointment Needed

Free, confidential impartial advice including debt, benefits, employment, housing, relationships, consumer issues

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Community First Responders
The Heartbeat of the Community



Community First Responders are volunteers who are trained to respond to emergency calls in their local area through the 999 system in conjunction with the UK's regional Ambulance Service NHS Trusts.

Community First Responders are not a substitute for the Ambulance Service. But, as they are based within the community in which they either live or work, they are able to attend the scene of an emergency call in a very short time; often within the first few minutes and, in the majority of incidents, they will be first on scene. Community First Responders are able to administer vital, life saving first aid treatment before the arrival of an Ambulance crew. Their early intervention further increases the patient's chance of survival or may just provide the simple reassurance that the ambulance crew are on their way.

respondersuk.org is a platform for Community First Responders to highlight their efforts in the community and also to provide people with information as to the important role Community First Responders play in their communities..

Classifieds

Preview St Mary Newsletter Amended Advertising Charges from July 2016

ONE-OFF ADVERTISEMENTS:

Local events	free of charge
Full page advertisements for locals	£ 9.00
Full page advertisements Non locals	£18.00

FOR 6 ISSUES:

Local Organisations:

Third of Page	£ 9.00
Half Page	£18. 00
Full Page	£36. 00

Non Local Organisations:

Half Page	£36. 00
Full page	£54. 00

Issues: Feb/Mar: Apr/May: Jun/July: Aug/Sept: Oct/Nov: Dec/Jan:

Editor: Caroline Gove – pstmpaper@gmail.com

Copy dates: To Caroline at least one month prior to issue date.

Beauty by Megan

Megan is a mobile Beauty Therapist with over 10 year's experience in the Beauty Industry, offering professional and thorough treatments in the comfort & convenience of your own home. As an alternative to home treatments, I also have a treatment room within Preston St Mary, 3 miles from Lavenham with off road parking! I use and stock leading professional beauty products such as **Dermalogica & Jessica**

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Minutes of a Meeting of Preston St Mary Parish Council
held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 24 January 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors McGrory; Bisson; Hanlon; Bardzinski and Luck
District Councillor Clive Arthey; Nicola Smith-Parish Clerk; 1 Member of the Public
County Councillor Jenny Antill sent her apologies but had forwarded her report for the
Meeting

1. Apologies

- i. The Chairman advised the meeting that Cllr Mathew Shenton had sadly resigned from his post as of 24 January 2017. His work commitments made it very difficult for him to carry on in the role. Cllrs expressed their thanks to Mr Shenton for his input, particularly in relation to planning matters. Clerk will contact Babergh and a Notice of Vacancy will be posted in the parish. Cllr Martin sent his apologies. He was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments;
- ii. All Cllrs consented to accept Cllr Martin's apology.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

- i. No disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussions;
- ii. No gifts of hospitality received;
- iii. No requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests – not applicable for the Agenda under discussion.

3. Minutes of Meeting:

All Cllrs confirmed that they read through the draft Minutes of 25 October and 22 November 2016 and agree them to be a true and accurate record. Chairman signed and dated the Minutes.

4. County Councillor, Mrs Jenny Antill's report:

Devolution

As you are probably aware the proposed arrangements with Norfolk, about which councils in Suffolk consulted residents on last year, collapsed towards the end of the year due to lack of support in Norfolk.

However, following some encouragement from the Government, it was decided by Suffolk leaders that we should attempt to conclude a deal for Suffolk alone (that might include some willing partners from Norfolk and/or Essex.). At the end of November a number of councils, including the County Council, agreed to go down this road, so a dialogue with central

Preston St Mary Parish Council

Government is continuing. Since I do not believe that what is on offer is either true devolution or democratic, I abstained from voting on this decision.

The County Council faces many pressing problems at present, including sorting out the dismal highways situation and finding savings to fill a large budget gap, I am unable to escape the impression that the devolution discussion continues to be a major distraction and that we are guilty of fiddling while Rome burns.

The Budget

A first attempt at setting the budget for 2017/18 was made before Christmas, and following further announcements from the Government with regard to funded has been recently finalised.

The gross budget has fallen from £1,104m to £934m, a reduction of £170m. This is largely due to the conversion of maintained schools to academies and the impact of the reduction in government grant that has been ongoing since 2011/12.

For 2017/18 There is a forecast budget gap of some £40m and savings of around £31 m have been identified. In accordance with the pledge made by the administration of the council ahead of the last election, the core council tax will not increase for 2017/18. However, recently, the Government has announced that it is to allow Councils to raise a specific levy in 2017/18 of 3% to help to fund social care. This is 1% more than previously announced. If we decide to apply this additional 1% it will reduce the deficit by a further £2m. but the shortfall could still amount to as much as £7m.

It has not been possible ahead of the elections in May to identify further places to save money and as a result it is likely that any shortfall will be made up by transferring money from the contingency reserve.

The savings that are currently anticipated for 2017/18 can be found in the Cabinet Papers for 24th January. These mainly represent a continuation of the transformation programmes that have been in place for 2 years now and other smaller reductions elsewhere. The problem of course with taking money from reserves is that the money can only be spent once and prudence dictates that the reserves be rebuilt. I think it is therefore very likely that further cuts in services will be announced after May's election and that council tax will be increased this time next year.

The finalised budget for 2017/18 will be debated by full Council on Thursday February 9th.

Preston

All has been quiet over the Christmas period from Preston

5. District Councillor, Mr Clive Arthey's report:

This report is mainly providing updates to 25th October 2016 report.
Chief Executive.

Arthur Charvonia, our new Joint Chief Executive, took up his position after the Christmas break.

Preston St Mary Parish Council

Accommodation Review.

The move to the Suffolk County Council headquarters building, Endeavour House in Ipswich, is due to take place during August and September. There are still no firm proposals for the future of the Corks Lane offices.

Waste and Recycling.

The main driver for our original strategy was reduction of Suffolk's household waste to landfill. 2016-17 second quarter figures showed our total diversion from landfill has now passed 3 million tonnes. That is 3 million tonnes recycled, and also, more recently, through the Energy from Waste plant, that would have been landfilled. In 1999-2000 our annual diversion was 69,000 tonnes, but by 2015-16 was 347,000 tonnes annually, with only around 1% of household waste now going to landfill.

Devolution.

Whilst all Suffolk councils have supported the devolution proposals, the lack of support from Norfolk means the Government is assessing the possibility of a scheme for Suffolk alone.

District Electoral Review.

I mentioned the Electoral Review at your September meeting. The first stage is to establish the number of councillors for the district, and this stage will go to Council in February. The second stage, looking at ward boundaries, will start in May. There will be periods of public consultation before a final decision, and the new wards will be in place for the 2019 district elections.

2017-18 Council Tax.

Likely increase of 3.4% in Babergh's element, SCC +3%.

Preston St Mary – I did request that a Committee decision be made in relation to Applebough planning application, but that request was denied. With regards to the Swifts Manor Riding Centre, an enforcement team is checking compliance with the terms of consent.

Finally, the tax base figures were agreed by Babergh in order that the Precepts could be finalized. I note that Preston St Mary had a favourable tax base figure for 2017-2018 of 5.4% from Babergh.

Clive Arthey

6. Public Forum: No comments

7. Correspondence:

Preston St Mary Parish Council

i. Public Footpath No:13 had been inspected by Kevin Verlander of SCC. At the time of inspection access could be gained across the footpath. If the matter changes it will be reported to SCC again;

ii. Public Footpath No: 12. SCC has sent a letter to the landowner requesting that the overgrown hedges be cut back, and that SCC will make a further inspection;

iii. The Update on the Referendum for Parish and Town Councils for Council Tax confirmed that the cap (5% without triggering a referendum) which was being considered, will not be imposed for either larger or smaller authorities. It may be imposed at a later time, but for now it was not imposed but Councils were being asked to be mindful of increases;

iv. A request had been received from several parishioners for sand/salt to be delivered to Rookwood Lane. Clerk had confirmed with SCC that it is on the list for delivery but that this had not happened and parishioners had confirmed that it was a problem that happened every year. Clerk had escalated matter with SCC. It was noted that some sand/salt had been delivered to the western end of Rookwood Lane (The Firs and the Triangle) but due to the recent weather this has already been used and needs to be topped up as we are not over the Winter weather yet. Clerk will liaise with SCC and will diarise for next year to try to ensure that a repeat of the situation does not occur;

v. James Cartlidge MP will be holding a Constituency Surgery at Lavenham Village Hall on Friday 3rd March 2017 between 2pm-4pm. Posters are up on the village notice boards;

vi. The Parish Council is required to have an external audit of its finances. BDO LLP have been undertaking these in the Suffolk area (to include the 2016/2017 audit). PKF Littlejohn LLP will be taking this over from BDO LLP for the Suffolk area as of the 2017/2018 audit for a period of five years.

8. Clerk's Report

i. Cllr Hanlon has requested to attend the course for new Councillors at SALC. Clerk advised Council that all new Councillors should ideally attend this course. It is helpful in understanding the role of a Councillor and the powers and duties of the Parish Council. Cllr Bardzinski proposed and Chairman seconded that the sum of £100 plus VAT be spent. All Cllrs agreed.

ii. Councillors considered and approved the schedule of items approved and awaiting authorization and report on the Council's financial position as set out below:

Receipts since 1.09.16

02.9.16 Newsletter 36.00

05.9.16 Precept (2nd instalment) 2150.00

2186.00 **Cheques awaiting reconciliation/payment**

100535 ICO Registration 35.00

100536 Newsletter Printing 36.00

Preston St Mary Parish Council

100537 SALC (payroll) 18.00
100538 Clerk's Salary 214.08
100539 HMRC 43.00 100540 Newsletter Printing 88.20
100541 Heelis & Lodge (Internal Audit) 62.00
496.28

Summary:

Community Account 4233.86

Business Saver Account 500.90

Receipts since 01.09.16 2186.00

6920.76

Deduct cheques awaiting reconciliation/payment 496.28

6424.48

(Total includes Transparency Funding of £1645) 1645. 00

£4779.48

iii. Precept as set out in the Minutes of 25 October 2016 were agreed. The Precept to be levied is £4700. The Precept form was completed and signed. Clerk will submit to Babergh and first instalment (half the monies) should be received by no later 30 April 2017, with the second instalment being received by no later than 30 September 2017.

9. To consider and agree the 2017 PC Meeting dates

Following discussion the following dates were Proposed by Cllr Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Luck, and all Cllrs agreed:-

28th March 2017

25th April 2017 – Annual Assembly (Annual Parish Meeting)

23rd May 2017 – Annual Parish Council Meeting

19th September 2017

31st October 2017

30 January 2018

10. To consider and approve the Emergency Plan Questionnaire

The draft questionnaire had been circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Chairman proposed and Cllr Bardzinski seconded that the draft be approved. All Cllrs agreed. The Chairman and Cllr Bardzinski and Cllr Hanlon will deliver the questionnaires throughout the village.

11. Parish Councillor's Reports

i. Chairman reported that Caroline Gove who deals with the Preston Parish Paper has indicated that she will be retiring in the Summer, after three years of editing the PPP. The last edition Caroline will do is the April/May edition. All Cllrs expressed their grateful thanks to Caroline for volunteering her time on the PPP. Chairman proposed and Cllr Bardzinski seconded that a small gift of thanks would be passed on. Chairman stated it would be a shame to lose the PPP,

Preston St Mary Parish Council

and that an advert would go in the next edition looking for someone to take over from Caroline. If no one came forward then the Clerk will obtain quotations if possible for the potential costs of having a version of the PPP prepared on a quarterly basis, but the costs may be prohibitive;

ii. Cllr Bardzinski raised a query as to whether the Parish Council had ever reached a resolution over the proposal for chevrons at Money Hole Corner. Following discussion it was agreed that Clerk will look into the parish records and see what the position is and report back to Cllrs/further the matter on where appropriate;

iii. Cllr Luck raised the issue of parking in Lavenham by the new housing development at The Halt. Vans and cars park along the road on the bend outside of the houses and the bend effectively becomes a blind bend with very little room for vehicles to pass. Clerk will email Lavenham Parish Council/Chairman to enquire whether SCC are intending to put any parking restriction road markings on that section of the road and report back at the next meeting.

12. Planning Matters

No new planning matters.

Planning decisions were noted on the Agenda.

Next Meeting: 28 March 2017

Apologies for the late delivery of this edition of the PPP - I waited until the minutes above had been written up.

Interesting facts...

There are 9,000 local councils (parish and town) in England. Over 16 million people live in communities served by local councils, which is around 25% of the population, and about 80,000 councillors serve on these councils. It is calculated £1 billion is invested in these communities every year. Local councils work to improve community well-being and provide better services at a local level.

Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well being.

Local councils can provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons and open spaces, community transport schemes, community safety and crime reduction measures, events and festivals, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, public toilets, planning, street cleaning and lighting, tourism activities, traffic calming measures, village greens and youth projects. These existing powers were recently strengthened by powers contained in the Localism Act including the extension of the "General Power of Competence" to eligible local councils.

Parish councils are funded by levying a "precept" collected with the council tax paid by the residents of the parish. Parish councils have unpaid councillors who are elected to serve for four years, unless a casual vacancy arises which may be filled by a by-election or by co-option

Caroline Gove

How well do you know your local MP?

James Cartlidge MP will be holding a **Constituency Surgery at Lavenham Village Hall on Friday 3rd March 2017 between 2pm-4pm.** Posters are up on the village notice boards.

But how well do you know the person representing us in Parliament? Below has been taken from James' website:



James Cartlidge lives in Assington, near Sudbury, with his wife Emily and four children. James was a Babergh district councillor until May 2015, representing the parishes of Bures St Mary, Little Cornard and Newton Green. His professional background is as an entrepreneur, having founded Share to Buy Ltd, a shared ownership property portal, mortgage broker and host of the 'London Home Show', the capital's biggest event for first time buyers. Share to Buy's portal officially hosts all the properties available from the Mayor of London's 'FIRST STEPS' scheme, providing the platform at no cost to the taxpayer (having previously been subsidised at a cost of £2m per year). Housing is certainly one of James's biggest passions and he uses his experience and background in the industry to push for solutions to the housing crisis. Most notably, James is Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Planning. He is also a member of the Public Accounts Commission.

In addition to running Share to Buy, James was previously a volunteer 'dragon' to the homelessness charity St Mungos' Broadway, acting as a small business advisor, sitting on a panel to decide which clients of the charity would receive grants to start a small venture. James has previously stood for Parliament, in Lewisham Deptford (2005 general election). In his spare time, James is drummer for a local pub band. He enjoys cycling around South Suffolk and spending time with his family in the beautiful countryside and villages of the constituency.

Benefice Services

Benefice Services