

Meridian Benefice

People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God
Luke 13:29

THE

HERALD

The Herald is a bi-monthly newsletter from the Meridian Benefice; the parish churches of Bluntisham cum Earith, Colne and Holywell cum Needingworth



For He shall be called 'God with us'

Time to celebrate the story

Sunday 14 December

St Helen's Church, Colne:
11am Nativity Service

Saturday 20 December

St Mary, BcE
5pm: Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

St John the Baptist, HcN
3pm: Crib Service (*In Church*)

St Helen's Church, Colne
6pm: Readings and Carols

St Mary, BcE
10pm: Christmas Eve Service

St John the Baptist, HcN
11:30pm: Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

St John the Baptist, HcN
9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)

St Helen's Church, Colne
10am: Holy Communion

St Mary, BcE
11am: Holy Communion

The Great Things We Are Thankful for

The celebration of Remembrance brings a deep sense of gratitude and peace, reminding us of our continuing responsibility to pray and to work for those places in our world still affected by war. This year, our villages shared moving commemorations, with hundreds gathering at the War Memorials to honour those who gave their lives for our freedom.

We will remember them. We stand united as a nation against all forms of evil not defined by left or right but grounded in our shared humanity. We pray for peace, dignity, and respect for every person, knowing that God loves each one of us without distinction.

As we move into Advent, our hearts turn towards the coming of Christ. Soon we will sing carols, decorate our churches and homes, and prepare for the joy of Christmas. Across our benefice, our churches are busy getting ready for services, crib visits, and community celebrations.

I encourage everyone to take part in our Advent and Christmas events. Let us keep our traditions alive in the heart of our families and villages, sharing the joy and hope that Christ brings.

As Vicar of these five villages, I am deeply grateful for your love, care, and commitment to our churches and communities. Thank you for all you do to keep our faith alive and vibrant. Together, let us continue to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, trusting in His promise and looking forward with hope to a prosperous year ahead.

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2

A Christmas Blessing

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, may we welcome Him not only into our churches but also into our lives and communities.

May the joy of the Christ-child fill your hearts this Christmas. May His peace dwell in your homes, His light guides your steps, and His love surround you and those you hold dear and may His presence bring hope in times of uncertainty, comfort in moments of sorrow, and strength for the year to come.

May God bless you and your families with health, faith, and peace in the coming year and may the love of Christ guide us all, that together we may be a blessing to one another and to the world around us.



With every blessing for a marvellous Christmas and a prosperous New Year,
Rev'd Valmor Pimenta

The Vicar of the Meridian Benefice:

St Helen's Church, Colne

St Mary's Church, Bluntisham-cum-Earith

St John the Baptist's Church, Holywell-cum-Needingworth



We warmly invite you to
St Mary's Church Hall
Bluntisham cum Earith

Community
Coffee

Family-friendly
Good Coffee, Good Company,
Delicious cakes!

Open from 10am—12pm
First Saturday of the
month (except August)

Services in December 2025 and January 2026 across the Benefice

Contact one of the churchwardens listed below if you want further information about any of the three churches

Vicar: Revd Valmor Pimenta, The Rectory, Rectory Road, Bluntisham, PE28 3LN, vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk, 07950 897771

'God Loves Mission'

Meridian Benefice Office contact 01487 829882

Please contact Revd Valmor (details above) for all enquiries about weddings, funerals, baptisms (christenings), confirmation, home Communion or visits.

	St Mary Bluntisham cum Earith (church open 9am-5pm)	St Helen Colne (church open during daylight hours)	St John the Baptist Holywell cum Needingworth
	Churchwarden: Stephen Edwards (07966 294478) bce@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Beverley Barlow (01487 840223) Robert Major (01487 841900) colne@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Michael Williamson (01480 465821) Ben Peilow (07803 937503) hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk
Tuesday 2 December			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Saturday 6 December	5pm: Carols in the Barn - Kingcroft, Earith		
Sunday 7 December	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Morning Worship 4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Monday 8 December			6pm: Carols in the Park (Needingworth Park)
Sunday 14 December	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Nativity	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Monday 15 December			6pm: Carols by Starlight (Holywell School)
Thursday 18 December			6pm: Compline
Friday 19 December		6pm: Carols round the tree	
Saturday 20 December	5pm: Nine Lessons and Carols		
Sunday 21 December	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship 6pm: Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve	10pm: Christmas Eve Service	6pm: Readings and Carols	3pm: Crib Service (In Church) 11:30pm: Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 December Christmas Day	11am: Holy Communion	10am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 28 December	11am: Christmas Thanksgiving Service, St Mary's Church, BcE		
Wednesday 31 December			6pm: New Year's Eve Service
Thursday 1 January	11am: New Year's Day Service with breakfast		
Sunday 4 January	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Morning Worship 4pm: No Messy Church	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Tuesday 6 January			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 11 January	11am: Holy Communion	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 18 January	11am: Morning Worship	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship
Thursday 22 January			6pm: Compline
Sunday 25 January	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
	Thursdays 12pm: Holy Communion		

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO

*St. Mary's Church
Bluntisham-cum-Earith*

9 Lessons of Carols
20th December 2025 at 5:00 PM



Visit our
Nativity Scene!

The church is
open daily
from 9AM to
4PM

**Holywell-cum-Needlingworth
Christmas Bazaar**

Saturday 6 December
12 noon – 4 pm

Come and see the
Church Team
at our tables in
Needlingworth Village Hall

St Helen's Church, Colne

Christmas Fayre

10-12
Saturday 6 December

All Welcome

Stalls
Tombola
Refreshments
Face Painting

**St Mary's Church
Bluntisham-cum-Earith
Christmas Celebrations:**

*Saturday 6th December
5pm Carols in the Barn
- Kingcroft, Earith*

*Saturday 20th December
5pm Nine Lessons and Carols*

*Christmas Eve
10pm Service*

*Christmas Day
11am Holy Communion*

*New Year's Day
11am Service*

Visit our Nativity Scene
Church open daily 9am - 4pm

St Helen's Church, Colne
warmly welcomes you
to join in this Christmas Season:

Saturday 6th December
10am-12pm: Christmas Fayre

Sunday 7th
4pm: Christmas Messy Church

Thursday 11th
10am: MusicMakers Christmas party

Sunday 14th
11am: Nativity Service - everyone joins in!
Come dressed up or not.

Friday 19th
6pm: Carols round the tree followed by mulled
wine and mince pies in church

Wednesday 24th, Christmas Eve
6pm: Readings and Carols

Thursday 25th, Christmas Day
10am: Holy Communion

St John the Baptist parish church
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth
welcomes you to our Christmas services
this December

Monday 8th
6 p.m. Carols in the Park
Needlingworth Park

Monday 15th
6 p.m. Carols by Starlight
Outdoors at Holywell C of E Primary School

Sunday 21st
6 p.m. Carols by Candlelight
St John the Baptist parish church

Christmas Eve
3 p.m. Crib Service
St John the Baptist parish church

11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass
St John the Baptist parish church

Christmas Day
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
St John the Baptist parish church



St John the Baptist church,
Holywell cum Needlingworth

Grand Christmas Draw

Win hampers, vouchers and other
great seasonal prizes.

Tickets £1.00 each
Available from
Wren Cottage Holywell,
Chapel House 15A High
Street Needlingworth
and at Church after the 09.30 service

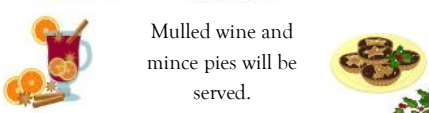


***Carols in the Barn
at Kingcroft, Earith***

You are invited to sing Christmas Carols on
6th December 5-7pm



Mulled wine and
mince pies will be
served.



Music Makers



Come and make music
with us

For pre-school children
accompanied by an adult

St Helen's Church, Colne
Christmas Party
11 December
(not on in January)

Further details:
Wendy George,
07753 718918



WHAT'S ON EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE

December 2025 and
January 2026

1st Earith, Bluntisham & Colne Scout Group:

Each section meets weekly in term time. Cubs (8-10½ yrs) Mondays 6:30-8pm; Scouts (10½-14 yrs) Tuesdays 7-8:30pm; Beavers (6-8 yrs) Thursdays 6:15-7:30pm; Squirrels (4-6yrs) Mondays 4:45-5:45pm. If you would like to offer help, or for your child to join our waiting list please email Charlotte Beattie (Scout Leader) on scouts@1st-ebc-scouts.org.uk

1st Needingworth Rainbows & Brownies:

Meeting in Needingworth on Tuesday evenings. Rainbows: girls 4-7 years old, Brownies: girls 7-9 years old. For more details contact Jules Swindells on 07597 569582
needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com
needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com

1st Needingworth Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Monday 6–7pm, contact Aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk
Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact chris.boddy@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk. We are always looking for adult volunteers and would like to hear from you on the e-addresses above. We are looking for volunteers to restart Beavers (6-8yrs).

14-90 Table Tennis Club: A friendly club for all abilities, every Monday, 7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Bluntisham cum Earith. Contact Will 01487 840223

Beacon Cafe: Wednesdays, 2–4:30 pm, in Bluntisham Baptist Church Hall. Relax in a warm and welcoming, child-friendly, café environment. We serve fresh teas and coffees, hot chocolate, soft drinks and delicious homemade cakes.

Bluntisham and Colne WI:

First Thursday in the month, Colne Village Hall 7:30pm. 4 Dec: Christmas Party, 8 Jan: British Silver Hallmarks - Neil Callan. Further information from Lindsay: lema60@btinternet.com
Non-members welcome for a small charge.

Bluntisham Social Badminton Club: play at Bluntisham Village Hall on Tuesday evenings from 8-10pm. Contact: Lynne lynnedowell@btinternet.com

Bugs 2 ukulele group: meets 2:30pm on Tuesday afternoons at the Baptist Church Hall, Bluntisham. If you like to sing and would like to try playing the ukulele, there's no need to read music, just come along and give it a go. Please contact: margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com.

Colne Caring Community (3Cs):

A 'not for profit' group run for the benefit of the community of Colne and the surrounding

area. Fortnightly Café sessions on Friday afternoons are held for local people of all ages, 2 - 4pm at Colne Village Hall. £2 per session which includes hot drinks and delicious homemade cakes. Sometimes with talks or entertainment. Any queries, call on our dedicated phone 07714 528537. See you soon!

Colne Afternoon Carpet Bowls: Village hall, Mondays 2-3.30 pm. £3 per session
Come along for a roll up. A cuppa & cake included in the price. Contact Tony 01487841735

Community Coffee: 1st Saturday of the month, St. Mary's Church, Bluntisham cum Earith 10-12pm. Come and enjoy wonderful homemade cakes whilst sipping your fresh tea and coffee. Family-friendly with gluten and dairy-free options.

Friday Art Group: Small friendly group who meet in Needingworth Village Hall 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. 01480 465536
patpaulmiller@btinternet.com

Holywell cum Needingworth Gardening Club:

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month in Needingworth Village Hall, 8pm. Many outings, activities and competitions planned. For latest information visit www.hcngardening.weebly.com.

Holywell cum Needingworth WI: 1st Monday of the month (if a Bank Holiday: 2nd Monday). Needingworth Village Hall, 7.30pm. 1 Dec: Christmas Party with Magic Man David Bale, Jan: Annual Dinner. Visitors welcome, for more information please contact Jackie Norris on 01480 465997

Holywell cum Needingworth Yarnbombers:

Every Monday morning in the Ferry Boat, from 10.30am to 12.00. A friendly group of knitters and crocheters, we create items for display around the village, and work on projects for charity. All welcome. For more information please contact Jackie on 01480 465997 or jackienorris@btinternet.com

Maggies miss-fits: The exercise classes for the active retired at The Baptist Church Hall, Bluntisham Thursdays 9:45am and Victory Hall, Somersham, Tuesdays 10am. Contact Margaret.taylor43@btinternet.com

Men's Group: This lively and supportive group meets every Tuesday evening with occasional talks, outings and meals. Contact Tim Berry 01487 842129

Meridian Singers: Rehearsals in Bluntisham Baptist Church Hall every Wednesday from 7:30pm - 9pm during term time. Everyone is welcome and there are no auditions. For more information call Ann on 01480 495272 or visit our website www.meridiansingers.com.

Needingworth Beer and Wine Society: Meets in the pavilion every 3rd Friday in the month 8-10pm: petronellaseb@gmail.com.

Needingworth Bowls Club:

Come and join us at Short Mat bowls in the Village Hall every Thursday at 2pm. No need to bring anything just turn up. Equipment provided. It's a great way to spend a couple of hours, meet new people and have a cuppa. For details call Alan 07368 422241

Third Thursday Club: Rector's Hall, Colne Road, Earith. Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month, except August. For more information please contact Margaret 01487 841397.

Walking with Friends: A friendly group with a different walk each Friday morning (in Cambridgeshire) of approximately 5 to 7 miles. Contact John 07715 477940 to find out more and join us.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children's Half Term Café

Wed 18th Feb 2pm-4.30pm
Indoor games and activities
Homemade cakes, cupcakes, cookies, soft drinks, teas, coffees, hot chocolate
All very reasonably priced
ALL ages welcome!

Beacon Café

Bluntisham Baptist Church Hall
High Street Bluntisham

THE GREAT RIVER OUSE

This course will cover the river's Ice Age origin, the medieval period when it had the most valuable watermills in the country, its inspiration for artists, its use in the 20th century, and current threats and opportunities.

Tutors: Keith Grimwade and Bridget Flanagan
Fee: for 5 weeks Early Spring term course, £25
Try out the first session free.

Begins: Monday 12th January 2026 At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ 10.00am to 11.45am
To register or for more information, please contact Marie Quick on 07905 911558 or email marie_quick358@hotmail.com

Ale in the Aisle

6th February 2026, 7pm onwards, St Helen's Church, Colne. For more information go to www.colnechurchfriends.org

St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

Winner September 2025
£100 Mr. N. Bailly No 110

Winners October 2025
£25 Mr. D. Morgan No 28
£10 Mrs. J. Twigg No 109
£10 Mrs. C. A. Stevens No 18

The 200 Club costs £13.00 per year and you could win £100 (twice a year) or £25 or £10 (ten times a year.)
Call Sue Dawson 07761 57 06 07 for more information.

The Herald: editor Eleanor Brown, email: herald@meridianbenefice.org.uk

Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by email, or if you have something you would like to be included in the Herald.
Deadline for entry to the February / March edition is Friday 16th January 2025