

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



Come Carolling

Monday 9th December 6pm:
Carols in the Park - Needingworth Park

Saturday 14th December 5pm:
Carols in the Barn (with Mulled wine and mince pies) - Kingcroft, Earith

Tuesday 17th December 6pm:
Carols by Starlight - Holywell School

Friday 20th December 6pm:
Carols round the tree (then mulled wine and mince pies in church) - St Helen, Colne

Saturday 21st December 5pm:
Carols in Church (then Mulled wine and mince pies) - St Mary, BcE

Sunday 22nd December 6pm:
Carols by Candlelight - St John the Baptist, HcN

Tuesday 24th December 6pm:
Readings and Carols - St Helen, Colne

Sunday 29th December 11am:
Benefice Songs of Praise - St Mary, BcE



Unto us a child is born

Sunday 22nd December 11am:
Nativity Service - come and be part of the story - St Helen, Colne

Tuesday 24th December 3pm:
Crib Service - Needingworth Village Hall

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

Luke 1.78

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

December is the month of the year when everything seems to revolve around the run up to Christmas. The shops are full of colourful decorations, gifts, toys and tempting foods as we all prepare for the fun and excitement of the Christmas celebrations.

In the church calendar, Advent is the time in December when Christians prepare themselves, through prayer and reflection, for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The baby born in a humble stable over two thousand years ago still influences our lives today. The birth of Jesus was a present to us all. It offered us the gift of salvation – the promise of eternity which we still continue to proclaim after all these years.

In our secular world, the true meaning of Christmas has sadly been lost to so many people. Very few shops now stock children’s books telling the story of the nativity, or sell Christmas cards with religious themes. So how can we help to keep Christ in Christmas?



This year at St Mary’s church, Bluntisham cum Earith, we will be displaying a very large Nativity Scene in the church. Why not call in to see it? Bring your children and grandchildren to enjoy it so that they can be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. The church will be open from 9am - 4pm each day.

As we look ahead to a New Year, we may have hopes and aspirations and so we make our new year resolutions. Perhaps we may regret that we have failed to do some of the things we hoped to do this year, but let us be positive and look forward to stretching our boundaries as we seek to make changes for the better in the coming year. Let us resolve to be more joyful, more caring, more thoughtful - to seek peace and unity in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities. Let us pray too for unity in our broken world so that bridges may be built to bring nations together in peace.

Numbers 6. 24-26

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace”

Rev. Valmor Pimenta

The Meridian Benefice church families of St John the Baptist HcN, St Helen, Colne and St Mary, BcE would like to thank everyone who has so generously supported our fund-raising events over the year. It is greatly appreciated. We wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.



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 2024 and January 2025 across the Benefice

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

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

Meridian Benefice Office contact 01487 829882

For all enquiries about weddings, baptisms (christenings), confirmation, home Communion or visits, please contact Revd Valmor.
For funerals of residents of any of the three parishes, in church and/or at a crematorium, contact Stephen York (as below)

	St Mary Bluntisham cum Earith (church open 9am-5pm)	St Helen Colne (church open during daylight hours)	St John the Baptist Holywell cum Needingworth
	Churchwardens: Peter Brace (07727 064138) bce@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Beverley Barlow (01487 840223) Robert Major (01487 841900) colne@meridianbenefice.org.uk	Churchwardens: Michael Williamson (01480 465821) Stephen York (07768 924249) hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk
Sunday 1 December	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship 4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Sunday 8 December	11am: Morning Prayer 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service No Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 15 December	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship
Thursday 19 December			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Sunday 22 December	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Nativity Service - come and be part of the story!	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) 6pm: Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve	10pm: Christmas Holy Communion	6pm: Readings and Carols	3pm: Crib Service - Needingworth Village Hall 11:30pm: Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day	11am: Holy Communion	10am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Christmas Morning Worship
Sunday 29 December	11am: Benefice Songs of Praise - St Mary, BcE		
Sunday 5 January	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Morning Worship No Messy Church	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Sunday 12 January	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Thursday 16 January			6pm: Evening Prayer with Compline
Sunday 19 January	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: Compline Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Holy Communion
Sunday 26 January	11am: Morning Worship 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Morning Worship
Holy Hour, Pastoral Care	Thursdays 12pm: December Thurs- days: Holy Communion, January Thursdays: Morning Prayer	Wednesdays 12pm: Pastoral Hour	Tuesdays 12pm: Morning Prayer / Holy Communion (CW) and Pastoral Visiting



The Three Village Photography Annual Charity Calendar is now out!

The wonderful images have been carefully chosen from over 400 pictures posted by the group. Proceeds from the 2024 calendar were distributed to Little Fishes, BaCStage and Bluntisham Blasters.

Your very own 2025 calendar can be purchased from 3Cs, Heath Fruit Farm, The Green Man, Pomfret Motors or the Earith Third Thursday Club - but be quick, they're going fast!



**Christmas Fayre at
St Mary's Church**

**Saturday 7th of
December 10am
to 3pm**

Music Free entry

Raffle Tombola

Refreshments

Various stalls

**St Mary's Church
rectory Rd
bluntisham
huntingdon PE28
3LW**



Holywell-cum-Needingworth
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 7 December

Needingworth Village Hall
12 noon – 4pm

Crafts, gifts, tombola, games, raffle,
hot food, refreshments and more!

Meet Father Christmas!



Organised by
St John the Baptist
parish church

Join us!

**CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

JOIN US FOR STALLS, TOMBOLA &
SANTAS GROTT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH • 3:30-5:30 PM

HALL, HOLYWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEEDINGWORTH.
ANY QUERIES PLEASE EMAIL
VEGOLDSMITH@GMAIL.COM



A Winter's song
A seasonal concert by
**The
MERIDIAN
SINGERS**

Conducted by Simon Kirk. Accompanist Maurice Hodges
With Special Guests Rob Freake & Rhys Wilson

**SATURDAY
7TH DECEMBER AT 7PM**

The Bluntisham Baptist Chapel PE28 3LD

**Tickets £10 on the door
Children under 15 free**

The Charities we are supporting this year are -
St Ives Food Bank
The Acorn Cancer Support Group



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

You are invited to sing Christmas Carols on
14th December 5-7pm




Mulled wine and
mince pies will be
served.



Come and visit our new
Nativity Scene
in St Mary's Church, Bluntisham

**The church will be open daily
from 9am to 4pm in December.**

All Welcome!



St John the Baptist church, Holywell cum
Needingworth

Annual Christmas Draw

Win hampers, vouchers and other great
seasonal prizes.

Tickets £1.00 each from the church or
Wren Cottage, Back Lane Holywell.

Draw will take place on Sunday 22 De-
cember after the Carol Service.




Bluntisham
Meridian
Learning
Experience

JAPANESE CULTURE

This course offers an introduction to Japanese culture and history,
focussing on the influence of Japanese art and cinema, literature and
Haiku. It also examines the 2011 tsunami and Fukushima disaster, the
recovery and what this says about modern Japan.

Tutor: Julian Sedwick
Fee: £25
Early Spring course
Begins Monday 13th January 2025 for 5 weeks
At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ 10.00am to 11.45am



To register or for more details, contact Marie Quick on 07905 911558
or email marie_quick358@hotmail.com

Try out the first session free.

Needingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust presents its

**ANNUAL QUIZ
NIGHT**

**1st March 2025
7.30pm start**

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

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
needingworthvillagehall](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/needingworthvillagehall)

Tickets go on sale December 1st

Fully Licensed Bar & Raffle



Raffle Prize donations welcomed!

WHAT'S ON
EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE
December and January 2024

1st Earith, Bluntisham & Colne Scout Group:

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

1st Needingworth Brownies: We meet regularly in Needingworth on Tuesday evenings for girls aged 7-9 years old. For more details contact Julie Swindells on needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com

1st Needingworth Rainbows: Our friendly group of girls meet on Tuesdays in Needingworth for 4-7 year olds. Contact: Helen Whitehead 01480 460838 needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com

1st Needingworth Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Wednesdays 6–7:30pm, contact NeedingworthCub-Scouts@hotmail.com;

Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact skip1stneedingworth@gmail.com

We are always looking for adult volunteers and would like to hear from you on gsf1stneedingworth@outlook.com. If we can get volunteers we would be very interested in restarting Beavers.

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

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

Bluntisham and Colne WI:

First Thursday in the month, Colne Village Hall 7:30pm. 5th December: Christmas Quiz and buffet evening. 2nd January: The Craft of Crochet with published local author Cassie Ward. Further information from Diane 01487 840431. Non-members welcome for a small charge.

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

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

Music Makers



Come and make music with us

For pre-school children accompanied by an adult

St Helen's Church, Colne

Christmas Party Thursday 12 December, 23 January

*Further details:
Wendy George, 07753 718918*

Colne Caring Community (3Cs):

Everyone is welcome. Meetings are 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. 2-4pm at Colne Village Hall. If you need our help or would just like a chat, please give us a call on our dedicated phone: 07714 528537.

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 Good Neighbours: The group are no longer able to continue due to lack of volunteers. However, it has been arranged that Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre, St. Ives Office, will take over the work previously done by the Holywell-cum-Needingworth Good Neighbour Group driving elderly and disabled residents of the two villages to medical appointments. For further information please contact Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre on 01480 301462

Holywell cum Needingworth WI: 1st Monday of the month (if a Bank Holiday: 2nd Monday), Needingworth Village Hall, 7:30pm. 2nd December – Christmas party with music and entertainment. 13th January members' Annual Dinner at St Ives Golf Club. New members or visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact Carol Peilow on 01480 496958.

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

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

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

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

Needingworth Bowls Club:

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

Needingworth Little Tigers

Stay and play group, every Monday in term time 10:15-11:30am, Needingworth Village Hall. All welcome. For more, contact Sarah White: sarah_dee_888@hotmail.com

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 01487 740075 to find out more and join us.

St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

September 2024 200 club winner
£100 Mr. N. Brown No 54

October 2024 200 club winners
£25 Mrs. E Strickland No 117
£10 Dr. A. Wilson No 90
£10 Mrs. L. Billington No 65

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 include in the Herald.
Deadline for entry to the February / March edition is Friday 17th January 2025