

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



Good Friday

Walk of Witness:

Aim to arrive at St Mary's Church, Bluntisham cum Earith at 11:30-11:45am for refreshments and 12pm service.

North Route: Leave Cranbrooke Nursery at 9:15am prompt; join at St Helen's Church, Colne at 10am for a shorter walk.

East Route: Leave Earith Bridge, near sluice, at 10am.

South Route: Leave St John the Baptist church, Holywell at 10am, walking through Needingworth.

Joyful Eastertide

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

"This Joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow" are the opening words of a well-known Easter hymn. Joy and peace in these turbulent times must be things that we all yearn for yet we need to look closer to home to find our own joy.

In his famous poem, 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,' William Wordsworth tells how the sight of a host of golden daffodils gave him great joy and brought him out from his loneliness. In the final words of his poem, he tells how he can recall this happiness: *"And then my heart with pleasure fills, and dances with the daffodils."*

As we leave behind the darkness of winter and look forward to the lighter days ahead, can we too find joy in the miracle of nature when we see the signs of new life all around us? Do our hearts feel uplifted by the sight of bright golden daffodils and the colourful blossoms appearing as if from nowhere?

But perhaps we should ask ourselves what else it is that gives us joy in our lives? Perhaps it is the joy of family, or of friendship, or maybe it is the more material things in life?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said that ultimately our greatest joy is when we seek to do good for others. We know that there are a great many people all over the world giving of their time and effort to bring relief to those in need. There are so many charities of different kinds which we can support. But this joy in giving is also something I see day by day in our local communities – a helping hand for a neighbour, a lift to the hospital, a kind word in the supermarket.

These are all simple things that we can all do which bring joy, not only to others, but also to ourselves.

As we approach Easter, Christians look forward to celebrating the message of hope and joy in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His victory over the cross gives all believers the promise of eternal life. Why not join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate this joy?

"May the joy of the risen Christ fill our hearts and homes. May His blessings be upon us, and may we share the love and grace He has bestowed upon us with others".

Revd Valmor Pimenta
The Vicar of the Meridian Benefice
St Helen's Church Colne
St Mary's Church Bluntisham-cum-Earith
St John the Baptist Parish Holywell-cum-Needingworth



Go forward in hope!



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 April and May 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: Ben Peilow (07803 937503) Michael Williamson Deputy: Gillian Deller (07821 387193) hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk
Wednesday 1 April		7pm: Taizé Service	
Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday	7pm: Maundy Thursday Service		
Friday 3 April Good Friday	Walk of Witness (see page 1) 12pm: Good Friday Service	Walk of Witness (see page 1)	10am: Walk of Witness (see page 1) 3pm: Good Friday Service
Saturday 4 April		7pm: Service of Hope	
Sunday 5 April Easter	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Holy Communion (Messy Church moved to 29 March)	6:15am: Dawn Communion 9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 12 April	11am: Holy Communion followed by APCM	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Thursday 16 April			6pm: Compline
Sunday 19 April	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Holy Communion followed by APCM	9:30am: Morning Worship
Sunday 26 April	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW) followed by APCM at 11am
Sunday 3 May	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Morning Worship 4pm: Messy Church 	8am: Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am: Morning Worship
Tuesday 5 May			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 10 May	11am: Holy Communion	11am: All Age Service 7pm: Benefice prayers	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Thursday 14 May Ascension Day			12pm: Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 17 May	11am: Morning Worship	11am: Holy Communion	9:30am: Morning Worship
Thursday 21 May			6pm: Compline
Sunday 24 May Pentecost	11am: Holy Communion 5pm: (BCP) Holy Communion Rector's Hall, Earith	11am: All Age Service	9:30am: Holy Communion (CW)
Saturday 30 May			6pm: Benefice Gathering
Sunday 31 May Trinity Sunday	11am: Holy Communion TBC	11am: Spring Café Praise	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

OPEN STUDIO & GARDEN

Browse the work of SUE EDDY
Landscapes, seascapes and lots more!

Pingles Farm, Holme Fen Drive,
Colne, PE28 3RE

May 23rd, 24th and Monday 25th
10am - 5pm

*Plenty of parking, wild meadow garden
to wander round. Drinks and home-
made cakes to enjoy. Everyone welcome!*

Proceeds of refreshments to Colne Church.



Easter Services

Wednesday 1 April

7pm: Taizé Service
St Helen, Colne

Maundy Thursday, 2 April

7pm: Maundy Thursday Service
St Mary, BcE

Good Friday, 3 April

Walk of Witness (see page 1)
12pm: Good Friday Service
St Mary, BcE
3pm: Good Friday Service
St John the Baptist, HcN

Saturday 4 April

7pm: Service of Hope
St Helen, Colne

Easter, Sunday 5 April

6.15am: Dawn Communion
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
Both St John the Baptist, HcN
11am: Holy Communion
St Mary, BcE
11am: Holy Communion
St Helen, Colne



Pilgrimage

The 'what', 'why' and 'how' behind them and some
experiences of taking them.

A Talk by Ben Peilow



Saturday 30 May 6pm
St John the Baptist church, Holywell
Our Benefice gathering event for 2026



Huntingdon District Council has
carried out amazing work in St Mary's
churchyard and cemetery with their
team, removing some trees, ivy, and
tidying up the area.

We would like to say a big thank
you for their hard work and great dedi-
cation to all our villages.

We welcome you to come and sit
for a while in the Spring sunshine; it
really is becoming a wonderful place of
tranquillity.



Strawberry Cream Tea

Sunday 7 June at 3pm
67 High Street Needingworth



Entry by donation
Raffle and Children's Games
All welcome

In aid of St John the Baptist parish church

St Helen's Church, Colne would like to
thank everyone for their support at
the Spring Coffee Morning.



Wanted: one or two volunteers
to deliver the Herald in Needing-
worth to Overcote Lane, 6 times a
year.
The full route is 63 addresses,
but could be split between two
people. Please contact Stephen
York if you are interested: 07768
924249,
stephenyork@flagholme.net

Music Makers

Come and make music
with us

For pre-school children
accompanied by an adult

St Helen's Church, Colne
2 April
14 May

Further details:
Wendy George,
07753 718918



**WHAT'S ON
EVENTS ACROSS THE
BENEFICE**

April and May 2026

1st Bluntisham Rainbows & Brownies:

Meeting in Bluntisham on Tuesday evenings. Rainbows: girls 4-7 years old, Brownies girls 7-10 years old. For more details contact Jules Swindells on 07597 569582 Girlguiding.Bluntisham@gmail.com

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 Scout Group:

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Monday 6–7pm, contact Aleta.watson@1st-needingsworth-scouts.org.uk
Scouts (10½-14 yrs) – Mondays 7-8:30pm contact chris.boddy@1st-needingsworth-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. 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 Ukulele group: 2:30pm on Tuesdays in the Fellowship room of Bluntisham Baptist Church. Sing, smile and strum your ukulele. All skill levels welcome. For more info email bugscams@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

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. £2.50 per session which includes hot drinks and delicious home-made 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. 13 April: Citizens advice bureau, 11 May: Holt Island. 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 AND INFORMATION

Earith PreSchool Waiting list now open

Summer and Autumn Terms 2026

Accepting children from the term after they turn 2 up to 4 years.

15 and 30 hours funding accepted

£5.75 per hour.

Committee run.

Term time only

Opening hours: 9am - 3pm (Full and part days available)

Ofsted rated Good in October 2024

Call 01487 841478 or

email earithpreschool7@aol.co.uk

Call or email to book a show around.

St. John the Baptist Church 200 Club

200 club winners January 2026

£25	Mrs. A.J. Felce	No 20
£10	Mr. R.A. Brown	No 12
£10	Mr. R. Dawson	No 86

200 club winners February 2026

£25	Mrs. E. Strickland	No 115
£10	Mrs. C. Border	No 112
£10	Mr. M. Williamson	No 19

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 June / July edition is Friday 15th May 2026