

# Blackbourne

## The Rector writes ...

In the Bible there is an account of a woman caught in adultery being thrust before Jesus by the religious leaders. They had no regards for her feelings. Her exposure meant nothing to them. She was simply a means by which they hoped to entrap Jesus. His answer is both simple and profound. *If anyone of you is without (any) sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her* (John 8:8)

Compared to this woman, the religious leaders felt pretty good about themselves. They had never committed adultery! Jesus is more focused: *those without any sin ...* His answer was not lost on them. They began to leave. It's important not to measure our Christian lives against the lives of others, but to measure ourselves against the holiness of God. Newly erected kitchen cupboards and shelves may appear level when viewed alongside other units, but when measured with a plumb line or spirit level, the truth is clear to see

Lent, meaning spring, nature's time of awakening, growth and renewal, is an opportunity to promote personal Christian growth. The Bible (not a text about sin, but a chronicle of God's healing and redemption) encourages us to grow in faith and devotion to God - to become more like Jesus. St Paul said: *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind* (Romans 12:2)

Lent is an opportunity to take stock, to surround our lives with Christian practices, exercises and experiences that will help us grow and stay connected to Jesus and live more like him

Jesus said to the woman: *I do not condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin*

Peter said: *Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed* (1 Peter 2:24)

## Team Ash Wednesday services: February 22

Holy Communion with Ashing: 10:30am at St Genevieve's, Euston; and 7:30pm at St Mary's, Troston

### Small Service

Sunday February 5, 11am  
Ingham Church

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday February 18, 8:15am  
Great Livermere Village Hall

### Children's Club

Sunday February 19, 9:30am  
Ixworth Church

### Informal Worship

Sunday February 19, 6:30pm  
Ixworth Church

### Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with Ashing  
February 22, 10:30am at Euston  
and 7:30pm at Troston

### Meditative Prayer Group

Thursday March 1, at 8pm  
Ingham Church

### Just-a-Bite

Sunday March 4, 9:30am  
Ixworth Church

### Quiet Day

Saturday March 31  
10am to 4pm  
Bardwell Water Mill

## Promises, Promises ...

A young man asked Jesus: *What must I do to gain eternal life?*

- choose my parents well?
- help old ladies across the street, keep my nose clean, and pay all my taxes on time?
- pay for a church window, or endow a hospital ward?
- join the Church of England?
- be baptised, confirmed, pasteurised and homogenised?

No, none of those. The Bible says, in Romans 10v9: *If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*

## ***Praying in the Churches: St Peter's, Fakenham Magna, Thursdays 9-9:30am***

Join Phillip and Liz for prayers in Fakenham Church in February, or Dinkie Williamson and others at Bardwell. Common Worship Daily Prayer is used (text provided), with time to reflect together on the readings for the day. All are welcome. Prayers in March will be at St Peter's, Ampton. PG

## ***Praying for the Parishes***

An opportunity to join in prayer for particular churches in the team. This month your prayers are asked for the congregation, PCC, Churchwardens and parishioners of St Gregory's Barnham and St Peter's Fakenham Magna. Pray too for our Church of England Primary Schools at Barnham, Bardwell, Honington, and Ixworth. PG

## ***Christianity Explored***

The participants at the *Christianity Explored* course held during last Autumn are continuing to meet together, as part of the home-group at Honington. We meet on Mondays from 7:45 to 9:15



## ***Informal Worship: Sunday February 19, 6:30pm at St Mary's, Ixworth***

An opportunity to enjoy a variety of traditional and more contemporary songs in a relaxed atmosphere. Each service has a theme that is explored in a variety of ways: images, music, poetry, Bible reading, prayer and interactive activities for example. Open to all who wish to come. PG

## ***Church Vision Building***

One of the recommendations of the *Forward 2 The Future* Task Group was to invite churches to engage in a process that would help them reflect on where they have got to and where, under God, they would like to be. It's very easy to continue year after year doing what we've always done, without occasionally stopping to think whether we could do things differently or better, try something new, or even stop something that is no longer as effective or appropriate as it once was. Such an exercise can breathe new life into a church often with surprising and welcome outcomes! At my invitation, Jim Hartley has kindly agreed to be available to church congregations to facilitate and guide this process. Jim is currently working with the following PCCs: Barnham, Euston, Fakenham and Ingham, with Ixworth next in line. Make sure your church takes advantage of this opportunity! PG

## ***Review of Sunday Services***

Another of the recommendations arising from the work of the *Forward 2 The Future* Task Group was that there should be a review of the provision and style of Sunday services across the benefice. The need for a review was also noted in the document *Mission and Ministry*, distributed to church members in September last year. The time now feels right to begin this review, and I am delighted that Jim Hartley has accepted my invitation to facilitate the process. Jim, the Ministry Team and I are all very concerned that the review is both wide-ranging and thorough. PCCs will play an important part in the review and its outcomes. To get the ball rolling, PCCs have been invited to choose two people from among their number to a meeting on Tuesday 6 March at 7:30pm. The task of this group is to work towards producing a proposal, or set of proposals, for consideration by PCCs. This may take one or two meetings at the most. Once PCCs have had time to discuss the proposal(s) the group will reconvene to consider responses and produce a final document. PG

## ***Men's Breakfast***

The next breakfast is at 8:15 on Saturday 18 February, at Great Livermere Village Hall. The speaker will be Dr Nick Harper on *Men's Health*. Men from the churches, their friends and colleagues are welcome. Enquiries to 01359-268413. dcg

## ***Deanery Alpha Course ... explore the meaning of life***

Wednesdays, starting 2nd May 2012, 7-9pm, at St Edmund's RAF Church, Honington. A hot meal followed by talk and questions. Subjects include: *Who is Jesus?* and *Why and how do I pray?* You don't have to be a believer, or know anything about the Bible. You can ask questions, or just listen. More information and bookings: Peter Gibbs, 0755-317-3826, [gibbspdh@hotmail.com](mailto:gibbspdh@hotmail.com); or Rev John Fulton, 01359-250285, [jwfulton@btinternet.com](mailto:jwfulton@btinternet.com). PG

## ***School Reorganisation Update: (from a three to a two-tier pattern)***

The consultation period ended on 9th December 2011. 864 questionnaires were returned, the results of which are published on the Suffolk County Council Website: <http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=24/01/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

In response to the question: *Would you like to see a two-tier pattern of schools in the Thurston area?* the replies were: Yes: 430= 53%. Maybe: 133 = 17%. No: 243= 30%

Having considered all the responses to the consultation, the Cabinet of Suffolk County Council met on 24 January and agreed to publish the statutory notices that would facilitate a move to a two-tier structure of education in the Thurston pyramid. Notices will be published early in February stating the intention to change the age ranges of the first schools and upper school and to close the middle schools. There is then a six-week statutory period during which further representations can be made to the Council. The Council's Cabinet will make a final decision on 17 April 2012

The Thurston Partnership consists of seventeen primary schools and the upper school. Please pray for all concerned, especially for the Church Primary Schools at Bardwell, Barnham, Honington and Ixworth, and for Ixworth Middle School. PG

## ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity***

The 2012 Week of Prayer has just closed. Barnham held its gathering last Friday, 27 January, with the theme *We will all be changed*. The guest speaker was David Jenkins, the Archdeacon of Sudbury. During his sermon, he spoke of the dis-unity among Christians in his native Belfast - now, thankfully, gradually diminishing

Last week my wife and I just happened to be in Paphos in Cyprus. Cyprus was the first stop on Paul's first international missionary journey – see Acts 13. In the centre of old Paphos is the site of an early Christian church (built, according to local legend, where Paul had been thrashed). Next to this site is a Greek Orthodox church. This church is no longer used by the Greek Orthodox community (they have a bright, shiny new building nearby). Instead, it is shared by two English-language congregations – one Catholic, the other Anglican. On the notice-board was an invitation to a *Service of Prayer and Readings* for Christian Unity Week. *dcg*



*Interior of Agio Kyriaki church, with a communion table at the front*

## Around the Parishes ...

### Bardwell

- **Community Lunch:** Wednesday 1 February, at the Tithe Barn, 12-2pm
- **Community Tea:** Wednesday 15 February, at the Dun Cow, 2:30-4:30pm
- **Pancakes and Coffee Morning for Shrove Tuesday:** Tuesday 21 February, Tithe Barn, 10:30-12
- **Bible Study at the Watermill:** Mondays 6 and 20 February, starting with a light supper at 7:15pm

### Barnham

- **Barnham Quiz:** at Barnham Village Hall on 3 February, 7pm for prompt start at 7:30. Tables of up to 6. Tickets £4 each to include home-made soup and a roll. Bring your own beverage! Tickets from Sarah Rush 01842 890095. In aid of Barnham Church
- **Vodka with a Twist,** a one-act who-dun-it play directed by Brian Robinson. February 24 and 25. Tickets from Liz Holland at 01842 890522 or [elizaholland1@aol.com](mailto:elizaholland1@aol.com). Friday £10 (to include supper), Saturday £5 (play only). Not to be missed! In aid of Barnham Church and Village Hall
- **Open the Book and afternoon tea,** at Barnham School. 1 February 2:45pm. All welcome – come and see what it is about!
- **Lord's Prayer Day:** groups of children from Barnham School will be coming to Barnham Church throughout the day on 8 February. The *Open the Book* crew will be running it, using material written by Helen Matter, the Diocesan Advisor for RE. If you are interested in Christian education, you are welcome to come and see what happens. Details from Sue Nutt 01842-890409 or Karen Burton 01842-763164
- **Home-Group** at Barnham on Thursday afternoons at 2 pm. Enquiries to Karen Burton 01842-763164. This is a friendly non-threatening group with lots of lovely cake (well, maybe not in Lent!)

### Honington

**Coffee Morning** in aid of Honington Church. At the home of Gill Farrow, Parkside, Euston, on Tuesday 7 February at 10:30 am. Do come and join us for coffee, scones, and good company. There will be a Bring and Buy table with good things for sale, and a raffle. Hope to see you there

### Ingham, Ampton and Great Livermere

- **Great Livermere Home-Group** will meet on Tuesdays 14 and 28 February, at Mere View, Church Road, Great Livermere (the home of Margaret and Jim Hartley), starting at 8pm. Come and learn more about the Bible and the Christian faith
- **Ingham Home-Group** will meet on Wednesdays 8 and 22 February, at Inglenook, Culford Road, Ingham (the home of Ros Simmonds). The meetings start at 8 pm. All welcome
- **The Tuesday Study Group** will meet in Ingham Church on Tuesday 21 February from 10:30am to 12 noon. All are welcome
- **Great Livermere Coffee Morning** in Great Livermere Village Hall on Tuesday 14 February from 10:30 am to 12 noon

### Children's Work Conference

Keynote speaker is Mary Hawes,

National Children's Advisor for the C of E

Saturday February 4, 10am-4pm

at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A day to explore and celebrate children's work in the Diocese

## Ingham, Ampton and Great Livermere—continued

- **Ingham Coffee Morning—Fair Trade Week** in Ingham Church on Tuesday 28 February from 10:30 to 12 noon. Do come and join us for a social gathering with other villagers. We have a competition, raffle and a bring and buy stall as well as a white elephant stall and books for sale. This month there will be a Fair Trade Stall from *Just Traid* in St John's Street for Fairtrade fortnight
- **Pre-school Activity Time:** on Tuesday 21 February at Ingham Church, 2 pm to 2:45 pm. Activity Time for pre-school children and babies and their parents, grandparents or carers: stories, games, prayers, toys and refreshments
- **Prayer for the Parish:** Thursdays at 6pm: February 2, 9, 16 and 23, in Great Livermere Church
- **Small Service** for all ages: Sunday 5 February at 11am, in Ingham Church

## Ixworth

- **Candlemass and Casseroles at Ixworth:** Saturday 4 February at 7pm: a social in aid of church funds by kind invitation of Bob Dew. A warm welcome, log fires and antique settles await you. Bring own bottle and pay £8 at the door. Prior notice essential. Please contact Bob Springham (01359-230186) or Jill Walker (01359-230776) if you are coming and for directions. PG
- **Soup and Pancake Lunch at Ixworth:** February 21 (Shrove Tuesday) at Dover Farm (kind permission of Reeve Farms) 12-noon onwards. A warm welcome plus soup and pancakes in a historic medieval farmhouse with log fires and very interesting surroundings. £8 at the door. Please contact Bob Springham (01359-230186) or Jill Walker (01359-230776) if you are coming and for directions. In aid of church funds. PG
- **Ixworth Sunday morning Children's Club takes off!** Our first *Sunday Club* in January got off to a flying start. Ten children enjoyed a lively time, and the sound of singing and laughter could be heard drifting from the warm reaches of the tower room! Suitable for children aged 4 to 9 years, *Sunday Club* provides exciting activities to help children learn more about the Christian faith in the context of our morning service. Why not join us on Sunday 19th February at 9:30am? PG
- **St Mary's 'Just-A-Bite': Ixworth Village Hall, Sunday 4 March, 9:30-10:45am.** Run by members of St Mary's Church, *Just-A-Bite* is for families with predominantly pre-school and primary aged children, to bring the whole family together to chat, have some food, learn about God, ourselves and each other, and to worship and have fun in a very informal way. The village hall is an ideal meeting place, and a team of helpers organises everything from arty activities to games and refreshments. Food to eat, food for thought for all the family! All are welcome. PG

## February 7 at 7:30pm, at All Saints Stanton

We are inviting all those who work with children, in groups or All-Age services, children's choirs and those working with young people, to a Deanery Evening solely for those working in this field ...

to share good practice, to identify what is happening and where, to provide a support network throughout the Deanery

It is important that we support each other, and that your voices are heard

Clergy are welcome to attend and support the evening

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT  
EITHER

REV DAVID MESSER 01359-250239  
[david@dmesser.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:david@dmesser.freeseve.co.uk)

HILARY WORDSWORTH-SEWELL 01359-221223  
[hilarywordsworthsewell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilarywordsworthsewell@yahoo.co.uk)

**Spectrum Contemporary Christian Studies**

***A Time to be Born and a Time to Die— Healthcare Today***

... a short course over 3 evenings, February 22 and 29, and March 7. At the Hyndman Centre, Hospital Road, BSE. 7:30-9:15pm. Cost: £20, concessions for full-time students. Booking is essential

Everyone is born and everyone dies. But we don't often have the chance to reflect on what birth and death mean along with health and disease. In this new course we'll be exploring these big issues in the context of contemporary culture and tomorrow's world. We'll look at cultural trends, healthcare and politics and discuss what difference the Christian faith makes to all these questions. And there will also be opportunity to reflect on what all this means at a personal level

*Course Leaders:* Dr. Josh Hordern, a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, where he teaches medical ethics; he is also a St. Edmundsbury Borough councillor; and Dr Claire Hordern, a specialist registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital

***The Missing Generation: How does the church connect with the 15-30somethings?***

West Road Church, Bury St Edmunds: Wednesday April 18th, 10am to 4pm

Wouldn't it be great to have more young families, students, teenagers and those in their twenties connected to the church? A look at the world of *Generation Y*, and the challenges facing the church in connecting with this largely un-churched age group

*Speakers:* Mike Pilavachi— Senior Pastor Soul Survivor, and author, from Watford; and Bob Mayo - Vicar at Shepherds Bush, author, and former Director of Youth and Community Training, Ridley Hall, Cambridge

£10 per delegate. Advance booking essential

***Further information and booking contact ...***

Andrew Buttress (Director). Bella Vista, Mill Road, Great Barton, Suffolk IP31 2RU: tel 01284-788284 or 07749-265571. See website [www.spectrumchristianstudies.com](http://www.spectrumchristianstudies.com), or email: [spectrumstudies@gmail.com](mailto:spectrumstudies@gmail.com)

***Green Blade: The Street, Wenhaston, Halesworth.***

*Green Blade* is a place to pause, make room for reflection and discover a means to growth. A former pub, *Green Blade* offers reflection days and residential accommodation for individuals or groups. Further details: 01502 478301 or email [lindsay@greenblade.plus.com](mailto:lindsay@greenblade.plus.com)

<p><b><i>Contacts</i></b></p> <p>Rev Phillip Garbett, Team Rector, tel 01359-234415</p> <p>Rest day: usually Friday</p>	<p><b><i>March 2012 Newsletter to be published 26 February</i></b></p> <p>Please submit items to Pearl Godfrey <a href="mailto:pmg@capstonesystems.co.uk">pmg@capstonesystems.co.uk</a> by Thursday 23 February at the latest, please</p>
<p>Rev Liz Jump, Team Vicar, tel 01359-269265</p> <p>Rest day: usually Friday</p>	<p><b><i>The Blackbourne Team Ministry</i></b></p> <p>The Blackbourne Team of Churches consists of the parishes of Bardwell, Barnham, Euston, Fakenham Magna, Honington-with-Sapiston, Ingham with Ampton &amp; Gt &amp; Lt Livermere, Ixworth-with-Ixworth Thorpe, Troston</p>