

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

A Happy Christmas to all our Readers

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 30th November –
Suffolk Beats in the Village
Hall from 8pm – See Page 6

Sunday 1st December -
Preston Praise for Advent
Sunday at 11.30am for 12 noon
in the Church

Tuesday 24th December –
Christmas Carol Service at
5.00pm in the Church – See
Page 5

Sunday 5th January – Preston
Praise for Epiphany at 11.30am
for 12 noon in the Church

Thursday 23rd January –
Charlie Haylock at 7.00pm in
the Church on the Suffolk
dialect – See Page 11

EDITORIAL

Thank you for all your support,
and for your contributions to
the PPP.

Our Editorial email address is:
editorpstmppaper@gmail.com
for future contributions.

PEACE AND JOY TO ALL



If you've any thoughts, points of view, experiences or protests to share, please write to the editors. We would love to hear from you, and so would the rest of our readers.

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN	Peter Korwin		
CLERK	Kay Shorter	07561 060041	prestonpcclerk@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

RECTOR	Revd Simon Pitcher	827691	revsimon63@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDEN	Keith Davis	247112	keithhdavis@btinternet.com

Friends of Preston St Mary Church

CHAIR	Glynis Huggett	01449 741389	glynishuggett@gmail.com
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Village Hall

CHAIRMAN	Annie Mason	07740 820100	ranniemason@btinternet.com
SEC./BOOKINGS	Sue Diggins	247626	sdiggins2rda-east.org.uk

Art Group

Monday mornings, 3 terms of 10 weeks

CO-ORDINATOR	Sarah Williams		sarahwilliams74@gmail.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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Table Tennis

Thursday Evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall

CO-ORDINATOR	Dave Williams		williams.jackdaws@btinternet.com
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Carpet Bowls

Friday Afternoons at 2.30 in the Village Hall

CO-ORDINATOR	Maggie Bardzinski		maggiemossbar@aol.com
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Preston Pop-up Choir

MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Lyn Davis	247112	divalynx@aol.com
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The Six Bells Pub

		247440	reservations@thesixbellspreston.com
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Tree Warden

	Lyn Davis	247112	divalynx@aol.com
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Preston St Mary Parish Paper

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

EDITORIAL BOARD	Robyn Lloyd Hughes, Jack Tasker, Caroline Gove		editorpstmppaper@gmail.com
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Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston	01449 740254	Lavenham	378226
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Local Councillors

Suffolk County Council	Robert Lindsay (Green Party)	robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk
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Babergh District Council	Deborah Saw (Green Party)	deborah.saw@babergh.gov.uk
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Community Liaison Officer	Cally Boardman	cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk
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Police - Non-emergency number 101

Police Community Engagement Officer – PC Jon Gerrish	ceosudburyhaverhill@suffolk.police.uk
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Our Ward is North West Cosford

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours: Luke 2 verse 14

St Luke tells us that having announced to the shepherds the good news that Christ is born; the angels sing this hymn of praise to God.

I hope you will feel welcome to join us at Christmas in Lavenham church and at Preston St Mary. At 6pm in Lavenham on Sunday 22nd December we have our traditional service of nine lessons and carols. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of the candle lit church and to sing the familiar Christmas carols. There is no better way to enter the Christmas spirit.

At Preston church we have a service of carols and stories at 5pm on Christmas Eve. This is a popular service for the whole village, suitable and welcoming to people of all ages, so come early for a good seat.

The Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is a popular tradition for many families. Starting at 11.30 pm we offer our praise and prayers at the start of Christmas Day. On Christmas Day we have a traditional service of Holy Communion using the words of the Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am, and at 10.00 Holy Communion with carols.

As we worship we add our voices to those of the angels, celebrating the birth of the Christ child and welcoming the peace that he came to bring. As 2024 draws to a close we look forward to a new year in which we hope and trust that the blessing of God will bring peace in the land of our Saviour's birth, and in the other war torn places of our world. We pray that international and local politics will serve to unite and build us up as one human family under God, and that there will be a just and fair share of the world's resources.

Christ's birth is about God entering into all that it means to be human, and about how his grace, mercy and love can transform our lives with a message of forgiveness, hope and new life. May we know these blessings for ourselves, our families, and for our whole human family in 2025.

Rev Simon

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LAVENHAM



Many will be aware that there is a social club in Lavenham, but the main raison d'être of The Royal British Legion is to aid and support ex members of the armed forces or their dependents who are experiencing difficulties.

If you fall in that category, or know someone who might, and would like to speak to The Legion, please phone 01787 249571 or 07817 316024 in complete confidence.

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Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

Cost of Living Support in Babergh



Elysa Dale
Cost of Living Coordinator

Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council - Working Together

Tel: 01449 724 944

www.babergh.gov.uk www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Endeavour House

8 Russell Road

Ipswich

IP1 2BX

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CRIB AND CAROL SERVICE



**TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2024
AT 5.00PM**

Children are especially welcome and are
asked to come dressed as any of the
Nativity characters or animals

Preston Praise

Our Preston Praise services have been very encouragingly received, preceded as they have been by mini-croissants, Chelsea buns and *pains au chocolat*, which have gone down very well, along with the fresh coffee or tea. The services are led by members of the congregation and are more relaxed and informal than the celebrations of Holy Communion and Evensong that we hold on most other Sundays. Our six magnificent bells are rung beforehand, and music always plays an important part in the proceedings.

**11.30AM REFRESHMENTS BEFORE
12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER AND
SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY**

**Just an hour or so – good fellowship.
Come and try it!**

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

Preston St Mary Parish Paper Advertising Charges

ONE-OFF ADVERTISEMENTS

Local Events	Free of charge
Full page advertisements for locals	£9.00
Full page advertisements for non-locals	£18.00

FOR 6 ISSUES

Local Organisations

Quarter 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/Jul; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov; Dec/Jan

Editor: editorpstmppaper@gmail.com

Copy Dates: At least one month prior to issue date

A fundraising evening in aid of East Anglia's Children's Hospices



- Saturday 30th November 2024
- 8.00pm till late
- Preston St Mary Village Hall

Live music from The Suffolk Beats*

Free entry

BYO drinks and nibbles

Donations welcome

*From 9pm

To Donate



DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025



LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK BRANCH

NOVEMBER 2024

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE

I am pleased to report that following my letter which appeared in the last edition of this Paper we were able at our AGM on 25th November to elect a new Secretary, a new Treasurer and a new Committee member, which will ensure that we will be able to continue the work of the Legion into the future. Your support is very much appreciated.

This year the Remembrance Sunday parade and Service in Lavenham was again well attended. It began at 9.30am in the Market Place, where over 50 soldiers from 71 REME Coy at Wattisham were on parade as wreaths were laid on behalf of the Crown, the local authorities, the armed services (including the United States Air Force), the Royal British Legion and other local interests. Then the troops marched through the village to the Church, where a special service included the naming of the war dead and a two-minute silence.

In Preston we held a service of Remembrance in the Church on Monday November 11th, which included a two-minute silence outside at the War Memorial.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2024

Thank you very much for everyone's kind donations for the British Legion Poppy appeal.

The Poppy collection in the Lavenham district this year raised a total of over £5000. This is a fine effort and comfortably exceeds last year's total. Preston raised £397 of that, including £100 from the Church collection on Armistice Day, £38 from the Six Bells, and £259 raised by Roy Hollocks, with the help of his granddaughters Mia and Emily. Our thanks are due to Kay Shorter, Poppy Organiser for the district, who has also taken on the Bildeston district this year.

Robyn Lloyd Hughes

Chairman, Royal British Legion Lavenham Branch

robynllloydhughes@gmail.com

01787 247

OBITUARY

Since the last issue of this Paper we have lost two well-known and popular village characters, Dudley Mason and Eddie Snelling. We offer best wishes, prayers and condolences to families and friends of both at this sad time.

DUDLEY MASON



Dudley as many will remember him, hurtling around the village on his ATV

Dudley Mason was born in Colchester, one of three brothers. His father was in the Royal Engineers, which meant that Dudley's childhood was spent travelling around the world, especially in Austria and Singapore. When his father left the Army the family settled in Somerset where Dudley attended Taunton School before going to university in Bristol. The family bought a garage which is probably where Dudley gained his love of engines and all things mechanical.

On leaving university he worked at the Royal Ordnance Factory testing explosives, before leaving to begin his career with Clark's Shoes. After several years working for Clark's Dudley decided to open his own shoe shops, which he did in Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

Those were very successful and enabled him in 1995 to buy Mortimers Farm in Preston St Mary. Dudley and Annie spent many happy years there, and they also had a property in Spain where they spent their holidays.

Dudley and Annie have two children, Jenny and Peter - Peter being a vet near Stowmarket and Jenny working for WHITE stuff. There are four grandchildren whom he loved very much and took great pride in.

For much of his life Dudley was very active in the Freemasons and used to write for "Tabler". His hobbies included wood turning, shooting and writing, including for this Paper. He loved rugby, Chinese food and a wide range of music: Cold Play, Simon and Garfunkel, Dire Straits and Mozart.

Unfortunately, Dudley suffered from Parkinson's and he became very ill towards the end of his life. He passed away on September 11th 2024.

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

EDDIE SNELLING

Eddie was a familiar figure to all who entered The Six Bells bar. Always ready for a chat and a smile, he is, alas, no longer with us, having passed away on 11th November. R.I.P. Eddie.



Eddie Snelling grew up in Essex and worked in and around Preston for over 20 years. He liked the place so much he moved here and lived here - in Church Lane - for more than 15 years. It was the peace and quiet of Preston that he loved so much.

Eddie was a maintenance engineer by profession. He loved reading (especially Terry Pratchett), Celtic and Rock music, and football (he supported Wolves).

Eddie as many will remember him, on his favourite stool in the Six Bells.

THE FRIENDS OF PRESTON St MARY CHURCH

A thank you to everyone who braved the wind and rain to enjoy our Christkindlmarkt fair on Saturday.

Special thanks to the Friends of the Church committee and supporters who worked so hard to organise everything so beautifully.

Thank you Pop-up choir for the festive music !

We are indebted to Carol and Wendy at Preston Manor for the use of their lovely barn, giving us the perfect atmospheric venue and also for their friendly coping with our constant coming and going during preparations !

The fair raised £2,000, which after costs will help to keep the church building in good order.

The Friends of the Church committee wish everyone a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve.... when the Friends will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after the carol service in our lovely church.

Glynis Huggett
Chairman
Friends of the Church of
Preston St Mary

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

The third Wednesday in November the French release the Beaujolais nouveau. Traditionally, Britons have regarded this as rather inferior plonk, but times have changed. Currently, it's a very quaffable fruity red and that's what the "Wonders" of Whelp Street do to celebrate: quaff it (the day after the third Thursday because it's brought fresh from France).

Give it a try - or, better still, invite a few neighbours in. It's a great excuse for a party. JT

NATURE NOTES

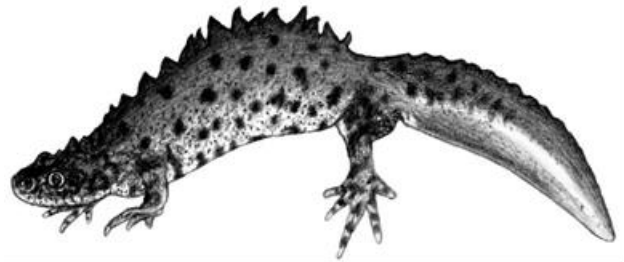
The Suffolk Wildlife Trust brings us up to date with some pond news:

From SWT magazine, November 2024:

New ponds attract newts

Using novel DNA analysis of pond water, we hope to confirm the presence of great crested newts in new wildlife ponds we have created over the last 12 months at Foxburrow, Arger and Spouse's Vale, Groton Wood, Combs Wood and with farmers and landowners on land beyond our reserves.

Great crested newts are the UK's rarest newt, recognisable by their wavy crest, black warty skin, and bright orange belly. They spend most of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows, marshes and tussocky grassland, favouring clean ponds during the breeding season.



NATURE LOVERS BEWARE!

Having tired of watching squirrels empty my bird feeders as fast as I could fill them, I bought a mail order bird feeder: "squirrel proof".

It took my resident squirrels 24 hours to empty it!
Beware! JT

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

Friends of the Church of Preston St Mary present

Charlie Haylock and 'The Dig'



Thursday 23 January 2025
in the Church, Preston St Mary at 7 PM
Ticket £20 including Hot Chilli Pot
Pay Bar
Raffle

Contact rogerhuggett@mac.com for tickets and payment

Charlie Haylock had a regular weekly spot on BBC Radio Suffolk with Lesley Dolphin for 10 years . . . and was weekly cartoonist for the East Anglian Daily Times

Charlie is a Suffolk author with a number of best selling Suffolk books, including, "Sloightly on th' Huh".

He is an historian of Spoken English and author of
"In a Manner of Speaking"

Amongst an evening of anecdotes, Charlie will talk about his experiences as the dialect coach to the great Ralph Fiennes in the wonderful Netflix film 'The Dig' and preparing Ralph and the cast for their roles and the extraordinary lengths Ralph Fiennes took, not only to play Basil Brown, but to become Basil Brown!

All proceeds go to maintain the Church fabric Registered Charity No. 1070593

POETS' CORNER

I think I should acknowledge my inspiration for "Poppies". The Rev Simon gave a very interesting sermon at Preston's remembrance service last year (2023), and I've taken some of the wisdom he imparted for the poem

Tim

Poppies

Fertilised by flesh and bone,
Bombs' nitrogen-rich tilling,
And lime from shattered house and home,
The fields of France are filling
With blood-red poppies, gay and bright;
Oh! Rich celestial irony
To scatter poppies, when He might
Have scattered deadly bryony.



Poets



If I were in possession
of an important sooth,
I hardly think suppression
Of it, served that vital truth.

So, when I write my poems,
I write with open hand;
I write them in a language
That all can understand.

The clever men at Oxford
Know all that can be known.
But like to hoard their knowledge
So write in secret code.

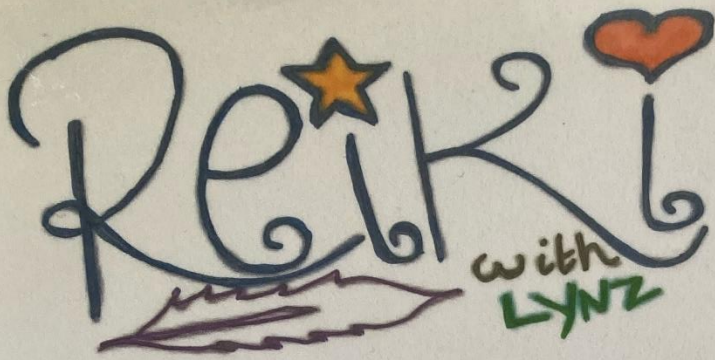
Perhaps that's why the feeling,
Currently abroad,
Is that poets aren't appealing
And make most people bored.

I relish derogation,
By scholars, pundits, peers.
Their snooty castigation
Is music to my ears.

My public like my poems,
I have but little doubt.
I might be wrong, but most I feel
Know what I'm on about.

©Tim Bridges

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025



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Reiki is for everyone, humans, animals, young and old.

1 hour at £25 course of 3 at £65 & 6 at £120

30 minutes at £15 course of 3 at £35 & 6 £70

*Discount for multiple people at the same location

**Discount for people who need the help but can't afford the full amount

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

PRESTON ST MARY & DISTRICT LADIES CLUB

New Members will be warmly welcomed to our meetings, so do come and join our group of lively ladies. Our annual subscription is only £10, and just £2 when you attend a meeting, which includes raffle prizes and refreshments. Village Hall meetings start at 7.30pm and are usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month.

2024 PROGRAMME

Next Meeting

THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER - PRESTON LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH - GATHERING AT THE SIX BELLS 12.30 FOR 1.00 PM - Pre booking only

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETINGS

28th October - AMELIA KEITLEY-WEBB talked to us about the challenging and epic 3-day bicycle ride she undertook in June this year on behalf of the **Quintessentially Charitable Foundation**. Amelia undertook this challenging bike ride from Zurich to St Moritz. Fired with enthusiasm, but a novice when it comes to competitive cycling, Amelia bought herself a second-hand bicycle and practised cycling in the Derbyshire hills - since Suffolk has no hills to speak of. The route of this 350 km bicycle ride took the riders through the Swiss Alps with an average ascent of 7,500m climbing over the Furka Pass. Amelia soon found the flaw with her bike was that it did not have lower gears and also that most of the group were competitive cyclists with very expensive bikes. She was told that riding her bike she needed to use 40 per cent more effort, so for Amelia the route was even more of a challenge. One day there was a landslide over which the cyclists had to climb carrying their bikes. Another challenge for the cyclists was that as they climbed upwards the weather got colder and colder. However, we are glad to say that Amelia finished the challenge and arrived back safe and sound. This was a remarkable feat of endurance and determination for Amelia and we are full of admiration for her. We are glad to say that the Ladies Club members and their guests collected £63 on Amelia's behalf for the Quintessentially Foundation that gives help to children.

11th November - MICHAEL EVANS' talk entitled LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE - THE LONELINESS (AND WARMTH) OF COMMAND was extremely interesting and was illustrated with many photos via a computer and monitor screen Michael started his 35 year career in the Navy as a young naval recruit almost by chance and it culminated in him reaching the rank of Captain commanding Destroyers. Learning to fly helicopters was a particular skill that Michael enjoyed. His Naval career took him to many parts of the world and even to the Falkland Islands (after hostilities had ended). As a passenger, Michael experienced a tragic helicopter crash into the sea, and it is for this that he became a member of the Goldfish Club. The Ladies Club members and their guests collected £82 on behalf of **SSAFA.ORG**, which is a charity set up to help and support armed forces families

Please note that the Ladies Club are very grateful to Robyn Lloyd Hughes for making it possible for both Amelia's talk and Michael Evans' talk to be illustrated via a Monitor. Many thanks Robyn for all your help – it is greatly appreciated

**Wishing you all a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and a healthy NEW YEAR**

Please get in touch with me if you are reading this article and think that you might like to give a talk to Preston Ladies Club. I would very much like to hear from you. Contact Anne Springall on 01787 247156 or email annespringall@gmail.com for more information. I am always glad to hear from you.

From Preston St. Mary Tree Warden Lyn Davis

When Jack asked me to write an article about my Tree Warden duties, I was a little apprehensive. There are so many of you in PStM that are far more qualified to talk about trees than I am - in fact the only reason that I was asked to be Tree Warden was because I walk a lot about the village!

I have, however, found it fascinating to think about trees, to look more closely at them and to seek out people who do know more about them than I do. My Dad used to sing a lovely song called "Trees" which began, 'I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree'. It goes on to relate trees to reaching up to heaven, sheltering a robin and experiencing the seasons in all their different ways.

I'm writing this article in Autumn, which is probably the best time to observe trees and be thankful for them. We are lucky to have so many trees and hedgerows around us in Preston. Many of us have trees in our gardens which, as Keith says, is a mixed blessing! One looks up at leaves and marvels at the colour and variety only to realise that every one of those leaves must fall and then be swept up! Elsewhere locally we are blessed with so many hedgerows and small copses, thanks to the pastoral care with which the farmers tend their land.



Many of us take all this for granted and only when we travel abroad do we realise how marvellous our landscape is. Keith and I recently visited Northern France where the agricultural landscape is almost prairie-like. No walls such as in our West Country and no hedgerows as we have here in Suffolk. Just huge fields of arable farms which abut the roads both local and national. What hope for flora and fauna with such a concentration on making the most of every last centimetre to farm crops? It seems that neither the French farmers nor the local residents care that their environment looks so barren.

Coming back to where we live, sceptics might think that the farmers only maintain hedgerows and trees because they are paid to do it. Nevertheless, those same sceptics probably enjoy the resultant verdant vistas just as much as any of us.

This year because of the benign weather we have been treated to the trees changing colour more slowly. What a glorious show they have put on for us! I finish with the final lines of my Dad's song:

'Poems are made by fools like me but only God can make a tree.'

QUIZ TIME

There are no prizes – answers are on Page 30

1. Which landmark building stands on the site of the old Newgate prison in London?
2. In which book does Count Vronsky feature as a character?
3. Where would you find the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula?
4. By what names were the US criminals Parker and Barrow better known?
5. How many times would you cross the Thames if making a complete circuit of the M25?
6. What was the name of the Sherpa who climbed Mount Everest with Sir Edmund Hilary?
7. Which King lost the Crown Jewels in the Wash?
8. Which book begins with a clock striking 13?
9. Which King followed George IV?
10. What is the name of Dennis the Menace's dog?
11. Miso is made from which fermented product?
12. 6th December is which Saint's Day?

SESAW – Suffolk and Essex Small Animal Welfare



Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888, email: info@sesaw.co.uk

Lucy Harwood

By Kate Hanlon

Here's a Suffolk artist you may not have heard of but who is definitely up there with Cedric Morris. This year I visited an exhibition of her work at the First Sight Gallery in Colchester and was overwhelmed by the freshness and beauty of her paintings.

Lucy Harwood was born near Ipswich in 1893 into a wealthy family. Shortly after her birth her family moved to Ackworth House, East Bergholt. As a teenage girl Lucy had shown outstanding musical ability and planned to become a professional pianist, but a failed operation paralysed her right side, obliging her to abandon her musical ambitions.

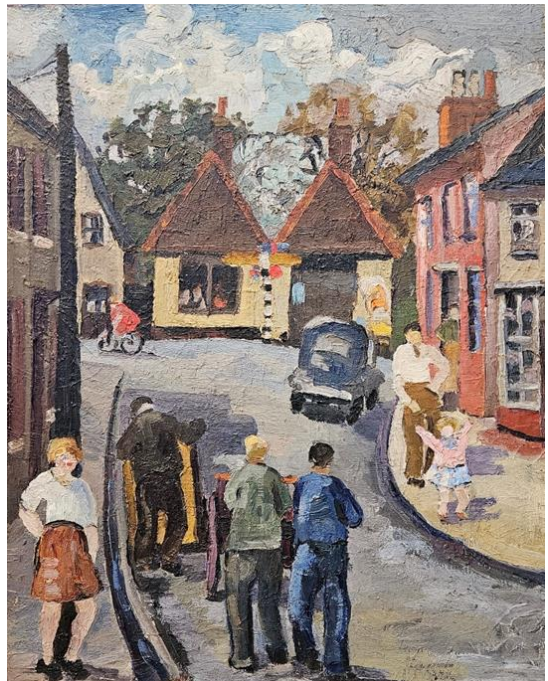


After studying fine art she attended classes at the Slade (a famous art school in London). She had a talent for drawing and after the death of her mother in 1938 moved to Dedham, becoming, at the age of 45, one of the first students at the East Anglian School of Drawing and Painting set up by Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett-Haines.

Influenced by Cedric Morris and Post-Impressionism, she painted landscapes and portraits of her fellow students and village neighbours, keeping a daily journal and every Sunday at 4.30 served a formal tea for her friends with buns, bread and jam.

When in 1940 the school accidentally burned down and moved to The Pound in Higham and later to Benton End Lucy bought a house in the nearby village of Upper Layham where she lived until her death.

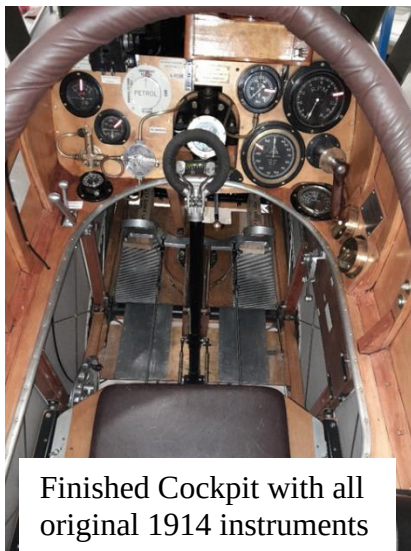
Here she became an institution and Maggi Hambling, a former student, recalls how “people maintained a respectful distance both from her paint-spattered car and the lethal port wine she served to visitors.” Regarded as an eccentric Lucy never married and was able to devote herself to the community and her art, taking pleasure in seeing her paintings hanging in neighbours' cottages. She became one of the early members of the Colchester Art Society. The painting alongside is of Hadleigh I believe. It's one of my favourites!



HISTORY NOTES

Royal Aircraft Factory SE5A C8996/G-ECAE

C8996 was built by The Austin Motor Company (1914) Ltd at Longbridge, Birmingham in November 1917 under contract number AS22251 with the construction number 10972. In June 1918 it was delivered to No.5 (Eastern) Aircraft Repair Depot, at Royal Air Force (RAF) Henlow, Beds., where it was stored for a period of time. There is some evidence that it may have been issued to 92 Squadron in France, as an attrition replacement, and later returned to Henlow for further storage following cessation of hostilities. On June 4th 1919, it was one of a consignment of 35 SE5A aircraft allocated to the Australian Air Corps under the Imperial Gift scheme, and was shipped to Australia in 1920 where it was given the serial number A2-25 and entered further storage at No.1 Air Depot, Spotswood, near Melbourne.



Finished Cockpit with all original 1914 instruments

Issued to No.1 Flying Training Squadron at Point Cook in 1927, it suffered a crash on 15th June of that year and the wreck was transferred to the Munitions Supply Board Laboratories at Maribyrnong, Victoria on 5th August for testing to destruction. The remains were Struck off Charge by the Royal Australian Air Force on 16th February 1929 but stayed in the possession of the Munitions Supply Board. These surviving components were later acquired by a private collector in Australia, who subsequently moved the project to Germany where he continued to build up a substantial spares holding of original SE5A components from various sources, before selling it on to a British owner in 1988. Here it changed hands again and was registered as G-ECAE on 23rd February 2010.

Structural rebuilding of the airframe was undertaken by AJD Engineering Ltd at their workshop in Suffolk before the project entered a period of dry storage. In October 2016 the project was sold to the current owner, Westh FLYG AB and further work was undertaken at the workshops of AJD Engineering, before it was moved in November 2020 to Vintage Fabrics' hangar at Audley End for fitting out and completion of the rebuild. Engine runs were successfully carried out in May 2024 and the aircraft is now fully assembled and rigged. Final fitting is being carried out prior to commencing flight trials for certification and it is hoped to display the aeroplane in the UK in 2025.



Aircraft nearing completion

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

Special thanks to Col Pope of Vintage Fabrics Ltd who spent many hours researching the history of this historic aircraft, being one of only two original flying examples worldwide.

©Col Pope November 2024



Engine runs

Tony Ditheridge



Don't forget to come to the traditional Preston St Mary Carol Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve. Always a highlight of the year!

Children are especially welcome and are asked to come dressed as any of the Nativity characters or animals.



**Preston St Mary
Carol Service
Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th December
5:00pm**



DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

RUTH PAGE

PRESTON PEOPLE



Although having lived in Suffolk for over forty years, I was born in N. Ireland to a Scottish father (born in Paris!) and a Dutch mother (born in Bosnia!). My love of horses led me to train as a riding instructor although I did have a spell working as a Croupier dealing Roulette and Blackjack. I met Russell while working in Norfolk when he sent me a young horse to break in, and within a few months we were married in St. Mary's Church, my parents having settled in Preston some years before. We started a riding school in an unused dairy farm which we ran until our retirement in 2011. We have three children - Nicholas, headmaster of the new Wetherby Pembrige Olympia School, Cleo, a partner in Chapman Stickels Estate Agents in Hadleigh, and Rosina, a vet at Linkwood Vet Practice at Catley Cross. We have five grandchildren. My main activity now is walking our three dogs (a lurcher and two Scotties).

MONKS ELEIGH POST OFFICE

Opening Hours

May be subject to alterations dependent on volunteer availability (Check our social pages)

Monday	9.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Friday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

The Community Shop is open 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am – 12.30pm Saturday and Sunday

COOKS' CORNER – from Maggie Bardzinski

Savoury Toastie cups

Ingredients: - (makes 12)

Medium Sliced white bread (6 slices)

Butter (real not spread)

Goat's cheese (log type)

Caramelised onion chutney (you will need 12 teaspoons)

6 olives halved

Set oven 220 C 200 fan

Using a 2 inch wide round pastry cutter, stamp out 12 circles of bread. Should get 2 per slice. Butter one side fairly generously and press butter side down in a non-stick shallow muffin tin flattening the entire surface with your fingertips. Spoon in about a teaspoon of chutney and top off with a slice of goat's cheese. And finally top with half olive cut side down.

Bake for 12-15 mins until golden.

Leave to cool slightly but best served warm.

Alternative filling:

Cranberry chutney (whole fruit not jelly) and Brie to cover.

Top off with a couple of fresh cranberries.

Spiced chutney/ Stilton blue cheese (crumbles to cover)



DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We had a very successful Harvest Lunch which followed on from the Harvest Festival service in the Church. About 40 people enjoyed delicious food and good company. A profit was made which was shared between the Village Hall and the Church.

On the morning of the Quiz Night more than half of the committee had gone down with one of the several bugs that were circulating around the village. This meant that we were very short of manpower for the event. Keith said he would like to say: -

A huge **"THANK YOU"** to Maggie, who stepped up and controlled the kitchen area as if it were her own. An equally huge **"THANK YOU"** also to Sharon and her husband Stephen who managed the bar and also did a marvellous job in scoring for the various rounds

Other help was provided by people who are not committee members (such as Pippa, Lyn and Gillian), but who got stuck in around the hall and serving the food. Talking of which - it was as excellent as ever! Some of it was even provided by those who were unable to attend themselves but who had taken the effort of preparing some eats. A real team effort - well done all. So thankfully in the end it was a very successful evening!

Don't forget if you are planning a party or family gathering the hall is available for hire with its excellent kitchen facilities. The usual activities are Art Club, Keep Fit, Table Tennis, Ballroom Dancing, Indoor Bowls and Baby Massage.

Winners of the Village Hall 100 Club final 2 draws for 2024: -

1st prizes:	Jacquie Williams and Wendy Sanderson
2nd prizes:	Robyn Lloyd Hughes and Liz Ladbury
3rd prizes:	Peter Bisson and Richard Sands.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

ANNIE MASON	Chairman, 07740 820100
SUE DIGGINS	Secretary, 01787 247626
KEITH DAVIS	Treasurer, 01787 247112

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

PRESTON 'PETROLHEADS'

ROBYN LLOYD HUGHES

I can't really claim to be a proper Petrolhead because I have never built or rebuilt a car, and it is many years since I last serviced or maintained my own cars (apart from small easy jobs). I remember a long time ago when I was young and single I spent a Saturday under my car and came in covered in oil and dirt, but proud of what I had achieved. My flatmate was lounging on the sofa with a beer, watching a Rugby international, and pointed out that a professional mechanic would have done the job in half the time. Since then, I've watched a good number of Rugby internationals on TV!



However, I've never lost my interest in cars (and buses, trucks, aeroplanes, trains etc) and have owned and driven quite a few in my time. My first car was an Austin A35 Countryman, and it was followed by a Hillman Imp, which was designed as a competitor to, and an improvement on, the Mini. It had a rear-mounted aluminium engine and was a superb concept but let down by poor reliability and handling. The Mini won.

In the late sixties and early seventies my late wife Joy and I had three Triumph Spitfires in turn – a 1965 Mark 2 (good), a new 1969 Mark 3 (the best of them by far), and a 1972 Mark 4 (with British Leyland logos on it – it was a disappointment). With Katie on the way we went for a family saloon – a Volvo 144 – which by the standards of 1973 was smooth, luxurious and robust, and it was my business and pleasure transport for several years.

In 1977 we moved to a house near Lyme Regis with an acre or two of land and acquired a horse for Joy and in time a pony for Katie. We bought a nearly new Land Rover 88 Hardtop which I still have. It's done 43k miles in 47 years but has seen regular use over short distances. It must be one of the most original on the road, and I shall keep it that way. I also have a matching Rice double horse box trailer.



DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

During my working life I travelled many miles and had a series of large hatchbacks or estates, including several Rovers – SD1, 800 series and my last one a 75 Connoisseur Tourer (estate car). That one was built in 2003 and was top of the range with every luxury, and as it was built several years after BMW took over there were no quality or reliability problems.



In the nineties I had a Morgan Plus 4 4-seater which with its open top and low sides was exhilarating to drive – 40mph on Suffolk lanes felt like 70. It was popular with the teenage Katie and her friends, but a bit too basic for Joy.

Eventually her idea of a Mercedes SLK with its electric hardtop won, and the Morgan went. I still have the SLK – now 22 years old.

My best car, which I take when I travel to visit friends, is a 2000 Bentley Arnage – the last 'proper' Bentley with the Rolls Royce V8 engine. You may by now have guessed my automotive philosophy – buy a good car and keep it a long time. Have you any idea how eco-unfriendly it is to build millions of cloned electric cars and to keep them supplied in batteries? Happy motoring!



AGRICULTURAL NOTES



The industry which surrounds us, namely farming, never ceases to surprise. On the occasion of our latest discussion Gary had just spent the day changing the tines on the power harrow (who would have thought they would wear out?). Indeed, a fair chunk of a farmer's time is spent indoors on maintenance of equipment, so he has to be an able mechanic in addition to maintaining soil and knowing how to get the best out of a range of crops. As equipment gets more complex the more outside help is required and certain items are covered by an annual maintenance contract. And of course, a good farmer is an instinctive weatherman. JT



The future of family farms is very much in the news at the moment. If you wish to be both informed and amused by the lives of farmers across the country try dipping into the following blogs – all highly entertaining, and highly recommended:

Olly Blogs, Joe Seels, Farmer P, Funky Farmer, Corner Farm RLH

BOOK REVIEW

THE SHEPHERD'S LIFE – A TALE OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

By JAMES REBANKS

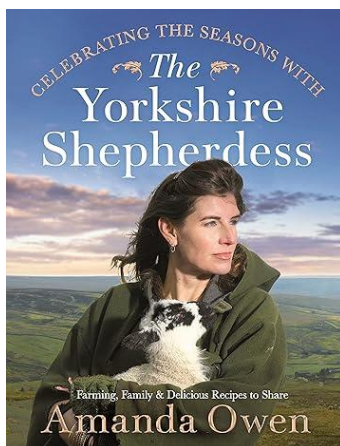
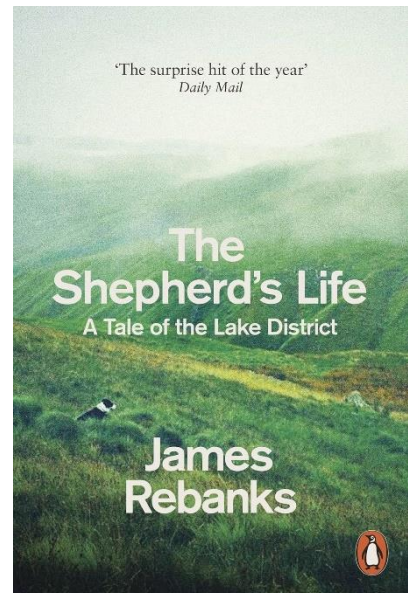
"The 1990s and 2000s were a time when the prevailing thinking was that we, small farmers in marginal areas, were yesterday's people; the future of our landscape would be tourism and wildlife and trees and wilding."

"When people in positions of authority spoke about our home, farms, countryside, it felt as if they valued everything in it except the things we valued, that producing food was a pathetic cheap thing."

James Rebanks wrote 'The Shepherd's Life' just a decade ago. His family have farmed in the same area for 600 years. The book is conversational in tone and a very passionate account of the realities of family farming.

He helps the reader understand that farmers working generational farms are 'hefted' to the land. To be hefted is to become accustomed and attached to an area of land. Once sheep are hefted they and their descendants will return to the same land – the knowledge of shelter and water and best pasture is passed from ewe to lamb. The same is true of the farmer. They are born to it and raised to it.

This book superbly demonstrates the rural reality. One of my top five favourite books.



CELEBRATING THE SEASONS WITH

THE YORKSHIRE SHEPHERDESS

by AMANDA OWEN

I include in this review Amanda Owen's gorgeous coffee table book. Lavishly illustrated with photographs showcasing the Swaledale landscape, it follows the seasons and includes seasonal recipes and stories about the family's life on the farm. The perfect Christmas gift!

KLH

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025



Lavenham Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic

Unit 12 Lavenham Studios, Brent Eleigh Road, Lavenham CO10 9PE

Conditions treated include:

- Back pain and sciatica
- Neck pain and whiplash
- Shoulder, elbow and wrist pain
- Hip and knee pain
- Ankle and foot pain
- Headache
- Rehabilitation after injury or operation



Your physiotherapist Mrs. Hua Sands:

- 20 years' experience as a physiotherapist registered with the Health and Care Professions Council
- Chartered Physiotherapist and member of the Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists
- Masters degrees in Health Psychology and Physiotherapy from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- Trained in acupuncture in China and UK for safe, relaxing and effective acupuncture

Unique Clinic Approach

The Clinic was set up 14 years ago to deliver a better outcome for patients through a unique combination of physiotherapy and Chinese acupuncture approaches to musculoskeletal pain relief, plus longer and more thorough assessment and treatment sessions. Acupuncture treatment is optional, but around 95% of patients feel some pain relief following initial acupuncture treatment.

The longer sessions enable a thorough assessment - essential for a proper diagnosis so that you can get the most effective treatment straight away to relieve your pain as quickly as possible. The detailed assessment also helps deal with the root of your problem, not just the symptoms, to help relieve your pain for the long term and prevent it recurring.

Where other health professionals have failed, Hua has often been able to diagnose and help resolve patients' pain by taking the time to fully understand her patients.

"When I first visited Hua I was experiencing considerable pain in my left knee despite visits to other professionals. Hua immediately identified a possible source of the discomfort. After a series of exercises my situation is much improved." Sue Arnold, Stowmarket. See website and Google Reviews for more examples of what patients say.

Ring **01787 247 726** or e-mail Hua@lavenhamphysio.co.uk to book an initial appointment. For more information, see www.LavenhamPhysio.co.uk

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

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DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025



QUIZ NEWS

Brettenham relaxed their grip at the Six Bells November quiz, which was won by The Hasbeens. Whelp Street, typically, came second.

Remember: the first Wednesday in the month at the Six Bells, teams of 4, entrance fee £12 per person which includes a first class curry. Next Quiz Wednesday 4th December.

QUIZ TIME ANSWERS from Page 16

1. The Old Bailey
2. Anna Karenina
3. The Tower of London
4. Bonnie and Clyde
5. Once (The Dartford Crossing is not Motorway)
6. Tensing Norgay
7. King John
8. 1984
9. William IV
10. Gnasher
11. Soybeans
12. St Nicholas

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

LAVENHAM GARDENING CLUB

The colours of autumn came late this year but no less glorious. Acers are always brilliant, with red, orange or yellow leaves - there's one to suit the size of every garden. A few roses or buddleias may still be in flower but cut down long shoots to prevent wind rock. Add spent annuals to the compost heap and replace with winter bedding in pots and baskets. Scented sarcococca or skimmia make a good focal point in a large pot accompanied by heathers and winter pansies, underplanted with bulbs. Raise pots on pot feet so they don't get waterlogged.

Take a walk round your garden and think about changes for next season. Our usually dry lawn was flooded so I'm planning a bed of moisture lovers in place of submerged grass. To give your garden the best boost for spring, feed your soil. Mulch with organic matter - home made compost, well rotted farmyard manure or spent mushroom compost. Order your vegetable and flower seeds or plug plants for spring deliveries.

More birds come to the garden when it's frosty but clean feeders regularly to prevent the spread of disease. Growing berried plants to feed the birds and leaving seed heads benefits wildlife and adds interest to the winter garden. Ivy flowers and high calorie berries are very valuable to wildlife.

Plants for Dec/Jan: winter flowering jasmine & clematis, mahonia, viburnum, daphne, sarcococca, erica, hellebore, Ionicera fragrantissima, early bulbs

Club News: We had a very enjoyable trip to Hyde Hall in October, followed by an illustrated talk by Matt Tanton-Brown, showing some of the best trees and shrubs for autumn colour.

Members of the Gardening Club planted the garden at Lavenham Village Hall when it was built and have maintained it ever since. However, recently it has not looked its best. We had the huge pampas grass taken out of the centre as it smothered other shrubs and then a marquee was erected over part of the garden for the Literary Festival, resulting in more damage. Replacement plants will be added to restore the garden and we thank volunteers for their continuing time and effort. Hopefully this situation will not arise again as we know the garden is appreciated by many.

18th Nov Quiz at Thorpe Morieux

New members always welcome. Annual subscription £20, which includes all meetings

details on website <https://lavenhamgardeningclub.co.uk>

Carolyn Jenkins



Image credit: Ben Hall



Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is the county's nature charity, inspiring and connecting people to the wildlife on their doorstep, as well as playing a monumental role in caring and safeguarding Suffolk's wildlife and countryside. We have led local nature conservation efforts in Suffolk for six decades and have saved some of the county's most important wildlife sites by securing them as nature reserves.

Working with communities, local landowners and partner organisations, Suffolk Wildlife Trust has helped animals and plants to thrive across Suffolk, reviving and cherishing crucial habitats. These habitats act as corridors, allowing wildlife to move safely through the landscape, and create a connected network of nature. Our vision is to create a wilder living landscape where wildlife can flourish and encourage others to become part of a wilder Suffolk.

Today, Suffolk Wildlife Trust cares for 50 nature reserves. But we have not done this alone; gifts in Wills over the decades have enormously contributed to the buying, expanding and protecting of our reserves for generations to come.

Seizing opportunities to buy or enlarge our nature reserves is one of the most powerful ways in which we secure a better future for Suffolk's wildlife. Legacy gifts have in fact been instrumental in every reserve purchase in recent years, enabling us to act quickly and with confidence when opportunities arise. Knowing they represent a lifetime of saving, we always try to increase the impact of bequests by using them to inspire more support through local fundraising. The unstinting response to these from members and supporters is inspiring.

The stories of our amazing legacy donors will forever be a part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's history and will inspire others to consider leaving a gift in their Will, so that we may continue our fundamental work. Our approach of saving legacy gifts for landmark projects like these means a gift in your Will of any size will directly help to buy land for wildlife, safeguard a threatened species, or support a special piece of work with lasting impact.

**For more information please contact us on 01473 890089
or visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/will**



DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025



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Facebook: Beauty by Megan (look for my logo)

Instagram: beautybymeagan_suffolk

‘All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names’.....

The Equality and Diversity Committee has been informed and any necessary disciplinary action will be taken – S Claus, Compliance Officer

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025



Opening Hours

Monday 10.00 – 1.00
Tuesday 10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Thursday 10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Friday 10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Saturday 10.00 – 2.00
Sunday & Wednesday - CLOSED

FRIENDS OF LAVENHAM LIBRARY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



WIN a bonanza of Christmas goodies in our fundraising **RAFFLE**. A Christmas hamper full of treats, a Christmas stocking made by our creatively, crafty Jo filled with gifts to bring a smile to your little ones faces!
AND other festive fancies!

TICKETS are available in the library for £1 and the draw will take place on **Friday 13th December**. So don't delay & buy yours today!

Lavenham Literary Festival



The library was very pleased to host author signings for another successful festival. Our fundraising Friends Group supported the festival by providing refreshments and with such generous donations the group raised over £1,000!



Our patron, Tracy Borman OBE

Lavenham Library would like to thank our customers for their support and we wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS

Contact Details

Lavenham Library, Lavenham Village Hall, Church St, Lavenham CO10 9QT

Tel No: 01787 247729

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

Email: lavenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Suffolk Libraries HMRC charity number XT34476



DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

Rector: The Revd. Simon Pitcher

The Rectory, Church Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, CO10 9SA Tel: 01787 827691

Associate Priest: The Revd. Graham Naylor

Tel: 07768 283636

Associate Priest: The Revd. Elke Cattermole

Tel: 07957 419055

Reader: Mr Pete Postle

Tel: 01787 248564

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY 1st December ADVENT	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	ADVENT CAROLS
SUNDAY 8th December ADVENT 2	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 15th December ADVENT 3	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	6.00PM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
SUNDAY 22nd December ADVENT 4	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
NO SERVICE AT PRESTON	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	CAROL SERVICE
TUESDAY 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE	LAVENHAM	3.00PM	CRIB SERVICE
	PRESTON	5.00PM	CAROL SERVICE
	LAVENHAM	11.30PM	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
WEDNESDAY 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
SUNDAY 29th December CHRISTMAS 1	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION
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Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

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Tel: 07957 419055

Reader: Mr Pete Postle

Tel: 01787 248564

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY 5th JANUARY EPIPHANY	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 12th JANUARY BAPTISM OF CHRIST	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 19th JANUARY EPIPHANY 2	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	6.00PM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
SUNDAY 26th JANUARY EPIPHANY 3	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY (Except 1st January) LAVENHAM 10.00AM HOLY COMMUNION

Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)