

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

Village Activities & News | St Mary's Church | Local Clubs & Events

Dates for your Diary

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday
Preston People's Passion – 12 noon in the Church

Sunday 5th April – Easter
Sunday 6.30am Sunrise Service in the Church

Monday 13th April – Ladies' Club at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 3rd May – Preston Praise in Church at 11.30am

Thursday 7th May – Suffolk CC election 7.00am – 10.00pm in the Village Hall

Sunday 10th May – Rogation Service and BBQ at Priory Farm 12 noon

Monday 11th May – Ladies' Club at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Saturday 16th May – Model Railway Show in Lavenham Church 10.00am – 4.00pm

Wednesday 20th May – Annual Parish Assembly – 7.30pm in Village Hall

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.

HAPPY EASTER

ELECTIONS, ECONOMICS, WARS

Our last issue announced the Government's decision to cancel this year's Suffolk County Council elections, set for 7th May. No sooner had we gone to press than the plan became the latest in a long line of 'U-Turns' – the Elections will now be taking place after all, and the planned radical reorganisation of local government is still going ahead.

At some stage there will be a new 'mayor' for Norfolk and Suffolk "to devolve decision-making closer to communities". It will be interesting to see how that will improve rural life here.

Continued fighting and bombing around the world is gradually strangling plans for encouraging growth and tackling the cost of living 'crisis'. The only certainty is that there is nothing any of us can do to sort out the problems.

Let us celebrate then how good Preston people are at staying cheerful and positive. This paper is as always packed with stories and events showing that friendship and fellowship are thriving in this little corner of Suffolk.

Are we downhearted? – never!

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.

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN Peter Korwin
CLERK Kay Shorter 07561 060041 clerk@prestonstmaryparish.gov.uk

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

Village Hall

CHAIRMAN Annie Mason 07740 820100 ranniemason@btinternet.com
SEC./BOOKINGS Sue Diggins 247626 susandiggins@gmail.com

Art Group

Monday mornings, 3 terms of 10 weeks
CO-ORDINATOR Sarah Williams sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

Ladies' Group

Informal gatherings arranged for most months of the year, usually on Mondays
CO-ORDINATOR Anne Springall 247156 annespringall@gmail.com

Table Tennis

Thursday Evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall
CO-ORDINATOR Dave Williams williams.jackdaws@btinternet.com

Carpet Bowls

Friday Afternoons at 2.30 in the Village Hall
CO-ORDINATOR Maggie Bardzinski maggiemossbar@aol.com

Preston Pop-up Choir

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Lyn Davis 247112 divalynx@aol.com

The Six Bells Pub 247440 reservations@thesixbellspreston.com

Tree Warden Sarah Williams sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

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

Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston 01449 740254 Lavenham 378226
Member of Parliament James Cartlidge MP (Conservative) james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk

Local Councillors

Suffolk County Council Robert Lindsay (Green Party) robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk

Babergh District Council Deborah Saw (Green Party) deborah.saw@babergh.gov.uk

Community Liaison Officer Cally Boardman cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk

Police - Non-emergency number 101

Police Community Engagement Officer – PC Jon Gerrish ceosudburyhaverhill@suffolk.police.uk

Our Ward is North West Cosford

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

REVISED SERVICE TIMES

We introduced a new regular service schedule on the first Sunday after Christmas. Holy Communion services were brought forward to begin at 11.30am, followed by wine and nibbles. Evensong was brought forward from 6.00pm to 4.00pm, to avoid congregation members travelling in the dark on winter evenings

Following consultation with congregation members the PCC has agreed the following amendments.

Holy Communion will continue to be at 11.30am; Evensong will revert to 6.00pm during the summer months; Preston Praise will continue to be at 12 noon with refreshments from 11.30 am.

GOOD FRIDAY PEOPLE'S PASSION SERVICE



12.00 NOON FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

A Lay-led service in which members of the congregation share their thoughts and ideas on the Passion of Christ in words, music and pictures

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Easter

Sonnet by Edmund Spenser



Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day,
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin:
And having harrow'd hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
Being with thy dear blood clean wash'd from sin,
May live for ever in felicity.
And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love thee for the same again:
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought,
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet: John's Gospel Chapter 13

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Dear Friends,

I have chosen to include a lengthy Bible passage in this April letter. Jesus washes his disciples' feet. To wash the dirty, smelly feet of another person is an act of service, of emptying oneself before another, kneeling before them as a servant. It is also an act of welcome and hospitality and kindness.

The Bible says that every knee shall bow at the name of Jesus, he who is the Son of God and Lord of the Universe. And yet he empties himself to show such love and service to his friends.

This image of a kneeling humble Christ is such a contrast to the political noise, rhetoric, anger, violence and self-serving language that fills the public square at the moment. As missiles fall across the Middle East and lives are lost, billions of pounds wasted, and the environment scorched, we have the story of God, in Jerusalem, in the person of Jesus Christ, washing the feet of his disciples. He knows one will betray him to death, others will deny ever knowing him and all will run away when Jesus is arrested and led to his death on the cross. The cross is the visible image of the violence of our world. The picture of Jesus washing feet is the picture of love. On Easter Day, love has the final say. Jesus meets Mary Magdalene in a garden as the sun rises on a new day.

Forgiveness, reconciliation, self sacrifice, service and love enable a new way of life, risen life, the life of the kingdom of God. For this new life we pray for our world, our country, our community and ourselves.

In Jesus name.

Simon

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.

APRIL & MAY 2026

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY NEW FIRE SUNRISE SERVICE



6.30AM SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

Followed by an Easter breakfast of bacon butties,
sausages and Buck's Fizz.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE PLEASE CALL SUE ON 01787 247626

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. The Easter Sunday Sunrise Service is on the first Sunday of April, and our next Preston Praise will be on the first Sunday in May.

**11.30AM REFRESHMENTS BEFORE
12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 3RD MAY**

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

APRIL & MAY 2026

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

PRESTON ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETINGS

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held at 7.00pm after Evensong on Sunday 26th April. All parishioners are invited to attend, but if you wish to vote you must be on the Church Electoral Roll. If you are already on the Roll or wish to add your name please contact the PCC Secretary Sue Diggins on 01787 247626 by 19th April.



'Making it bigger is the only way to get the council to mend it.'

©The Spectator 2026

PRESTON ST MARY POP-UP CHOIR

I am pleased to report that the New Year has brought new members to our Pop-Up Choir and they are very welcome. If you would like to join us or simply want to know more, then please contact our musical director, Lyn Davis, or our pianist, Sara Whymark. As we prepare for our next concert, which will be on Saturday 27th June, I decided to ask the members "Why do you come to choir?"

The answers varied a little but many were on the same theme. Everyone I spoke to said how much they love the company, the friendship and camaraderie. Some confessed that they didn't think they could sing but now find that they can. Being able to share music, have lots of fun and plenty of laughs helps to lift the spirits and appreciate what it is to be in such a happy community.

I am going to include a few more of the responses to my question. I wonder if you can guess who gave them?

"The sociability, the fellowship and to hear Mervyn sing"

"Singing makes you feel better. It lifts you. I come away with a spring in my step"

"It is a therapy. It is my favourite time of the week. The choir are like family"

"There were 27 volunteers and one conscript, me!" - But he found his voice, loves singing and even does solos. We couldn't do without him.

"I come to choir because I am told to go and get in the car"

"Joyful, brilliant and great craic. It sets up the day and you come home singing"

"I come because it is my singing outlet after my career as a professional singer"

"It gives you a good buzz"

"I love the choir. I love singing. They are a great crowd. The friendship that it brings is so enjoyable. Give it a try. You may think you can't sing but you'll love it"

Sally Taggart.

Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem – Good Friday 3 April 7.00pm

On Good Friday, 3 April, at 7.00pm the Lavenham (and Preston) church choirs, together with the Tudor Rose Singers and Horringer Singers will sing Fauré's Requiem in Lavenham Church.

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir for this event please contact our Director of Music, Kevin Slingsby, on kevin.slingsby@lavenham.church.

I sing because I'm happy, and I'm happy because I sing Anon

POETS' CORNER

A Sonnet for Susan the Lonely Chicken

A stout matron clad respectable in tweed.
Thorn-proof, warm, out-toed, leather-scaly kneed
You hoist your skirts and run, Les Dawson-esque,
First Wife's Ma, bustling in her weekend best
Gyroscopic head, rock-steady running,
Darts so fast to peck an ant or earwig,
Or bathe in dust, feathers fluffed, warm-sunning
Stationed daily at my door, my dear big
Lonely Susan, your love and mine surprised
Us both, two ageing hearts, once more apprised:
There's no finite fund of feeling, no end
Of tenderness or time for a new friend.

Anthropomorphic though this love must be
'Cos you're a hen feels real enough for me.



© Tim Bridges Nov/Dec 2025

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

PIMMS

As the warmer weather approaches we look forward to relaxing with a glass of something refreshing, and the traditional choice is a jug of Pimms. The alternative to buying an expensive bottle is to mix your own.

1 Measure Gin
1 Measure Red Vermouth
½ Measure Orange Curaçao

Stir together and leave to stand for 1 hour
Add slices of orange and/or lemon

To serve add chilled fizzy lemonade and mint leaves



Are you getting ready for this year's Great British Spring Clean?

Every year volunteers across Suffolk, including hundreds in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, go out litter picking to give an area they love a well-deserved 'spring clean'.

If that already includes you, thank you!

We wish people didn't litter, but what you do really does make a difference in keeping our districts clean and tidy.

If your parish or group haven't yet, do you fancy giving it a go?

There are plenty of benefits to litter picking, including:

- staying active
- enjoying the outdoors
- the chance to socialise with neighbours
- the satisfaction of instant results
- giving back to your local community

You can litter pick any time of year. Whenever suits you best, and whether on your own or as part of a group.

You can find lots more information and resources on the Keep Britain Tidy website.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/>

We can:

- provide litter picking kits to parish councils and groups taking part for the first time
- put you in touch with your nearest group
- provide rubbish bags
- collect the rubbish after a pick
- or arrange for you to take the rubbish to your nearest recycling centre

© Tim Bridges January 2026

All you need to do is let us know how we can support you best.

Simply email us on public.realm@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk with the date of your litter pick(s).

Thank you to everyone who has already sent us their litter picking dates for this year.

We love to hear about your events; please do send us some photos that you'd be happy for us to use for promotion, including on social media, to encourage others to take part.

We look forward to hearing all about your litter picks.

Kind regards,

The Public Realm team

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils



Better Recycling for Suffolk is just around the corner.



Better Recycling
IS COMING TO
SUFFOLK

In June 2026, your Recycling and Waste Services will be changing to make it easier for you to recycle more.

In addition to what you recycle now, you'll be able to recycle glass bottles and jars, drinks cartons, a wider range of plastics and food waste from home.



For more information visit:

www.babergh.gov.uk/future-changes-to-bin-collections



APRIL & MAY 2026

LAVENHAM
FLOWER
FARM



From Spring 2026 I am delighted to be offering cut flowers and foliage for sale, grown here in Preston St Mary

- ◇ **Regular deliveries of a hand-picked selection of seasonal flower and foliage stems for you to arrange for your home**
- ◇ **Hand-tied gift bouquets personally delivered in the local area**
- ◇ **One-off bespoke orders for cut flowers and foliage for your special event**

Contact Lucy Attwood on 07941 251880 to enquire about any of the above services or to arrange a visit to the farm

Jordans Farm, Rookwood Lane, Preston St Mary CO10 9LY

Instagram:: @Lavenhamflowerfarm
Website: www.lavenhamflowerfarm.co.uk
e mail: lucy@lavenhamflowerfarm.co.uk
Tel/Whats App: 07941 251880

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 £3 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.

2026 PROGRAMME

As you all see, I have a few gaps to fill in our programme this year but I am working to fill the gaps with either speakers or outings.

April 13th. Anne Springall will finally be giving her talk about **DAME ALIX MEYNELL** who was an amazing woman and a force to be reckoned with. She was a trailblazer for women and was one of only two women admitted to the Civil Service in 1925. She made her mark in the Board of Trade with rapid promotions where she had a major role organising rationing in WW2, for which Alix was honoured with her title. A workaholic by nature, in her late 80's she published her autobiography "**PUBLIC SERVANT, PRIVATE WOMAN**". Alix had a long, productive and interesting life and I was proud to have been her Secretary.

May 11th. Robyn Lloyd Hughes will be talking on the subject: '**1945 - What next, now the War is over?**' It covers bringing the boys home, reconstruction, rationing, austerity, the welfare state and nationalisation during the post-war years. This will be an **OPEN MEETING** to which menfolk and guests are invited.

June 30th. An afternoon visit to **Lavenham Flower Farm** at Jordans Farm, Rookwood Lane by kind invitation of **Lucy Attwood**. Refreshments will be available. Details nearer our visit.

July 13th. Nothing yet booked

August. No meeting

September 14th. Carol Rogerson has kindly agreed to come and talk to us once again. I do not have details about her talk yet, but I am sure it will be very interesting and absorbing

October 12th. Nothing yet booked

November 9th. Nothing yet booked

DECEMBER - PRESTON LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Date & Venue to be advised.

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETINGS

March 9th. Our first meeting of 2026 was celebrated with a glass or two of Prosecco followed by an entertaining quiz and a fun memory test. The evening was very lighthearted and was a good way to begin 2026.

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.

PRESTON ST MARY ART GROUP

Our ten week term has flown by. We had the pleasure of Kate Hanlon teaching two sessions with us where we looked at portrait skills and techniques.

As we approach our Spring/Summer term we are keeping our fingers crossed so we can paint and draw outside. We will start back on Monday 27th April at 10am in the village Hall. If you would like to join us, please feel free to come along. Our sessions are Mondays 10 – 12.

We are a friendly bunch and you don't have to be a Leonardo to join. If you would like any other information please contact Sarah at sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Gary and a colleague manage 2000 acres. In this vicinity the main crops are sugar beet and wheat. They will be drilling for sugar beet soon, though not very optimistically as it seems there has been a tendency to over produce. And wheat does not convey optimism due to threat of foreign competition. It is feared foreign producers are less regulated while British wheat is meticulously controlled.

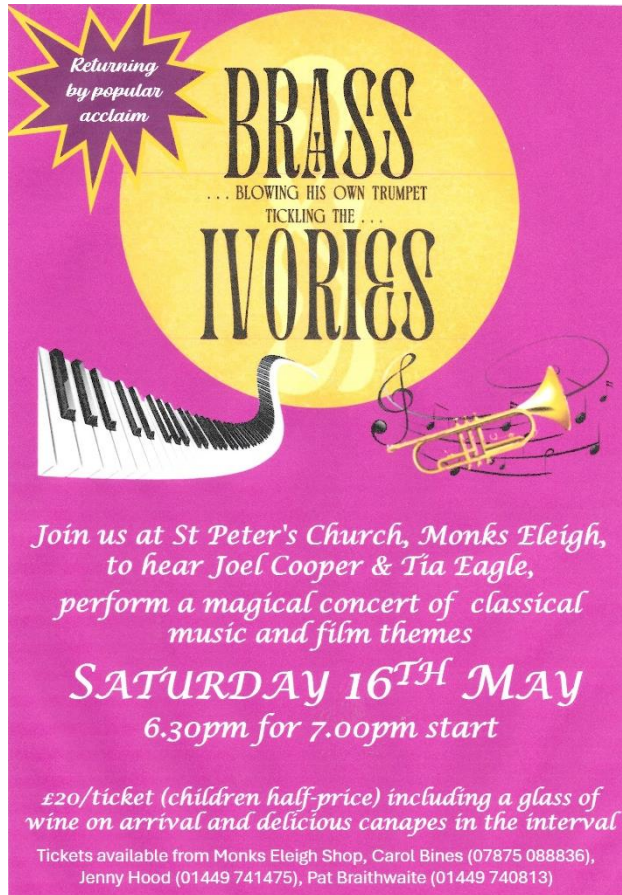
With prices of oil and fertilizer rocketing it is not an optimistic year for the farmers. For those who own their land it is tough but, if the rent has to be paid regardless, worrying times. JT



Tell me that story again Mummy – I'm all ears

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURS

MONKS ELEIGH



Returning by popular acclaim

BRASS ... BLOWING HIS OWN TRUMPET TICKLING THE ... IVORIES

Join us at St Peter's Church, Monks Eleigh,
to hear Joel Cooper & Tia Eagle,
perform a magical concert of classical
music and film themes

SATURDAY 16TH MAY
6.30pm for 7.00pm start

£20/ticket (children half-price) including a glass of
wine on arrival and delicious canapes in the interval

Tickets available from Monks Eleigh Shop, Carol Bines (07875 088836),
Jenny Hood (01449 741475), Pat Braithwaite (01449 740813)



PRE-LOVED CLOTHING SALE
VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 2ND MAY

SALE!

- Have a wardrobe spring clean and turn your unwanted items into cash!
- Hire a table at the Monks Eleigh Pre-Loved Clothes and Accessories Sale
- Or come along and grab a bargain

£10 for a table and £2 for a rail
10am to 2pm - Free Admission
Changing Room / Clothes Rail Hire
Refreshments / Raffle
Proceeds to St Peters Church
To book: Contact Jan Kelsall
07855 035896

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

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

2026 Meetings

The dates for the Parish Council meetings for the rest of this year are:

May 20th

July 22nd

September 23rd

November 18th

All meetings at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Should extra meetings be required during the year they will be announced on the website.

Annual Parish Assembly

Everyone in the village is invited to join the Parish Assembly to be held on May 20th at 7.30 pm at the village Hall following the AGM of the Parish Council.

Representatives of any clubs or associations in the village are welcome to give reports to the community.

Kay Shorter

Parish Clerk

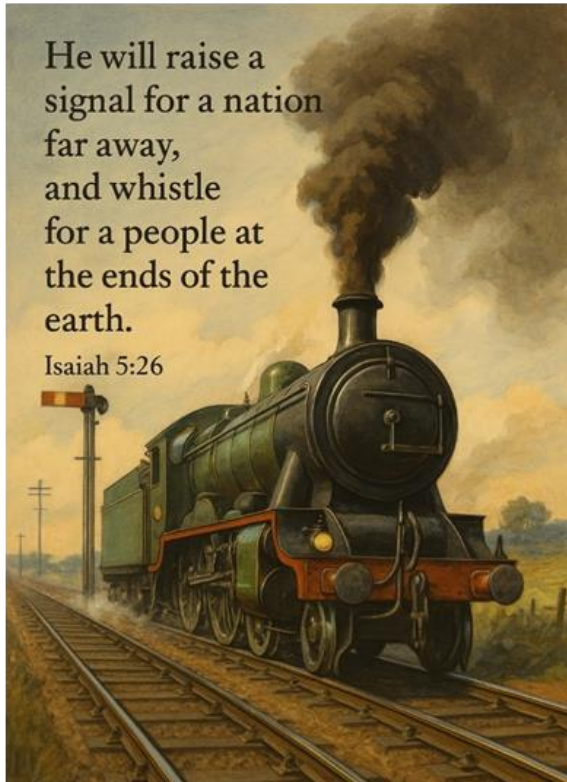
QUIZ TIME

There are no prizes – answers are on Page 31

1. What is the capital of Lebanon?
2. What country has the most islands in the world?
3. When did they open the London underground?
4. How many keys does a classic piano have?
5. What Nationality was Edvard Munch?
6. How many time zones are there in Russia?
7. On which day of the week does the Jewish Sabbath begin?
8. Which country has the highest life expectancy as of 2026?
9. Aureolin is a shade of what colour?
10. Which is the only sea without any coastlines?
11. Which country features a shipwreck on its national flag?
12. Which powerful Mongol ruler conquered a vast empire stretching from Asia to Europe?

APRIL & MAY 2026

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL
LAVENHAM SUFFOLK**



2026

**MODEL RAILWAY
SHOW
IN THE CHURCH**

**Saturday 16th May 2026
10.00am – 4.00pm**

In the setting of one of the finest and largest parish churches in England, with layouts of all kinds, in a range of scales, regions and countries (with special focus on East Anglia), together with trade stalls.

Refreshments available

**Adult admission £7.00, family tickets £12.00
(purchased in advance to guarantee entry)**

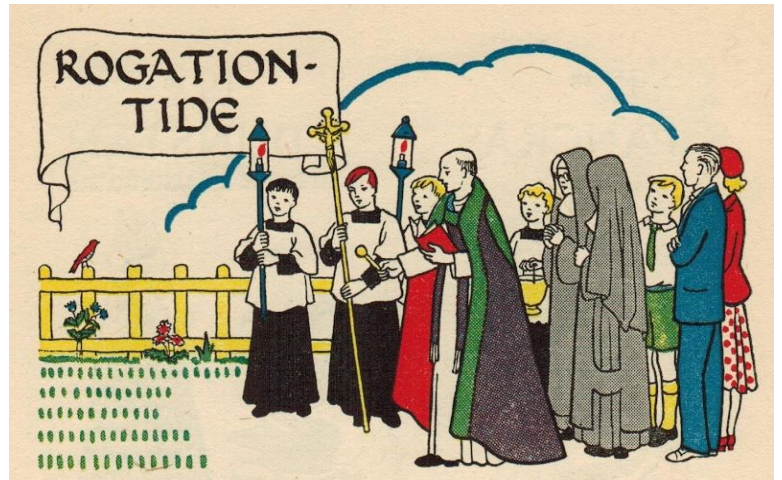
*Further details and tickets will be available at
www.lavenham.church/mre (or scan the QR code)
where you can also register to receive updates*



APRIL & MAY 2026

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

ROGATION SUNDAY SERVICE BLESSING THE CROPS AND BBQ



12.00 NOON SUNDAY 10TH MAY

A service of thanksgiving, followed by a tour of the Priory Farm fields blessing the crops as we go, and returning to the Farm for a BBQ lunch

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE PLEASE CALL SUE ON 01787 247626

FRIENDS OF
LAVENHAM AIRFIELD

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF
THE 487TH BG, 8TH USAAF



The USA Memorial Holiday weekend falls on the 23rd – 25th May this year. On Sunday 24th May Lavenham Airfield will be open to the public, and there will be a ceremony at 12 noon on that day at the memorial to the 233 men who died while flying with the 487th Bomb Group during WW2. For more information on this and other events organised by the Friends of Lavenham Airfield please contact Robyn Lloyd Hughes on 01787 247571 or email robynlloydhughes@gmail.com.

A Concert with

"Fiddlers Elbow"

Violin & Spanish Guitar Duo

On Friday 17th April at 6pm
St Mary's Church, Brent Eleigh

CO10 9NP

Tickets £10 each from

Georgina Strutt 07989974354

Karen Marshall 07946209103

Café Como; Monks Eleigh Community Shop

BAR by donation; canapes on
arrival

*In aid of the Restoration of the
750 year old unique wall paintings*

Charity EW 25408

PRESTON PEOPLE

JACK TASKER



Tea? Tea? A can is poked through the wire surrounding what was the Holiday camp at Dovercourt, near where dad, in the Navy, was stationed. I didn't like tea but was sorry they couldn't give these poor POWs real cups. A year later, aged five, I was confronted by the huge grin on an older cousin's face as he announced "War's over!". I thought that would mean no more BBC or newspapers!

Moves, then, to a couple of primary schools closer to London where Dad could drive his black cab. The best bit of suburban life: the Scouts. Thence to a technical school, the so-called equivalent to grammar schools - but with a technical bent. I didn't have that and, as a horrid stropky teenager, left for a junior's job in a broker's office at 16. The discontinuation of national service meant I would wait years to be old enough to be trained as a broker so I applied to a foreign bank. I couldn't believe the staff manager as he solemnly described to me, a 17 year old, the attraction of the pension scheme. The good bit about 17 was it meant I was old enough to hold a scout leader's warrant. With two other fanatics we ran the scout troop for five years marking time in our regular jobs which we hated. After that one got a start on a very successful career in the travel industry, the other married a girl in Hong Kong and I got accepted at university.

Between bank and university, I worked for an outdoor pursuits holiday firm - running canoe/camping holidays on the River Wye. In the long summer breaks at university I would do the same thing for the same firm on the River Rhone. I finally left the firm to pursue an academic career and held lectureships in several British universities then a fairly senior job at a Polytechnic - now a university. I found the academic objectives of much academic work frustrating and had stronger pragmatic tendencies. I loved the management element of the last job.

At the age of 51 I found myself confronted by a financially irresistible early retirement

APRIL & MAY 2026

scheme. I'd had the best - and given my best - to academia. So took the leap. Of course, I wouldn't get the dosh for another 10 years and needed to eat! I ran a restaurant as manager/chef, was relief manager at several pubs. taught English at South Coast summer schools, was odd-job man and French polisher, barman, translator, and for many years, carer to my mother who lived to 97.

Perhaps most interesting, though unpaid, was the decision with my neighbours in Littlehampton to exercise our right to buy the freehold of our seafront building {me in the lead!} The landlord resisted, judges were sometimes openly biased, and lawyers inefficient. However, after five court hearings and tribunals - victory was ours! It was something of a landmark case because the national press gave it good coverage.

Alas, I leave behind two divorces, but was lucky enough to meet Karen ("Bubbles") with whom I have been together almost 20 years [XXX]. My son and I are close pals! I'm a lucky man. Time to move? "Why Suffolk?" It's close to the Essex where I grew up. It's genuine rural England, unlike Sussex which is "gentrified". Preston's great and Whelp Street a little community in itself. Parish Council, and working with Robyn on Preston Parish Paper for 8 years and I earn the Adnams bitter.

THANK YOU JACK

Jack Tasker has been since 2017 Joint Editor of this Paper. In that time he has progressed from Cub Reporter to Chief Correspondent, in addition to providing a steady stream of editorial content. He has now decided to take more of a back seat, although he remains a member of the editorial board and will continue to contribute to the Paper. Jack – it has been a privilege to work with you in producing over 50 issues, sharing malt whisky and cigars, and board meetings over lunch in the Six Bells. Many thanks. RLH



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NATURE NOTES

Ravens in Preston St Mary!

While walking with my two dogs I was thrilled and very surprised to see two pairs of Common Ravens noisily playing and calling in a tall tree near the reservoir!

I recognized the strange noises they made first, (gronk, gronk!) then looking up, I saw these large black birds jumping from branch to branch and seemingly chatting to each other!



As many of you know there is a great app you can have on your phone to identify bird song and mine confirmed that they were Ravens. If you don't have the app I'd recommend it. It's called 'Merlin' and is free, which is always good!

The Ravens soon flew away and I tried to follow their progress across the landscape, going from tree to tree in what I'd describe as a playful way. As far as I know Ravens aren't really supposed to be in Suffolk so I'm really hoping that they will stay around and make the Preston area their home. One of my neighbours has also seen them, so hopefully they are staying around.

So, are Ravens returning to a county where they were clearly once numerous? Place names like Ravenscroft and Ravenswood, indicate that they were once part of the Suffolk landscape.

Ravens are highly intelligent birds, and they are also accomplished acrobats in flight. When displaying, they can roll and fly upside-down!

Kate Hanlon

COOKS' CORNER

Bubbles' Breakfast/Brunch omelette for two **The perfect way to start the day.**

Chop half a red pepper
Handful of mushrooms chopped
2 ozs mature Cheddar grated
4 eggs
1/4 cup milk

Whisk egg with milk, add black pepper and salt.
Fry red peppers add mushrooms; when nearly cooked add liquid; when nearly cooked sprinkle cheese.
Can cook as two or one and cut in half.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It's that time of year again when members of the Village Hall committee will be knocking on your door for your subscriptions to the 100 Club! This is an excellent way that you can help the village hall with its running costs and future projects, so please support us.

One of the recent improvements we have done is to update the lighting. We have installed new down lights in the hall which can be used for evening functions instead of the bright lighting we have already. We have also added extra lighting outside the hall.

The recent Duck Race Night was another success; a hot supper was served and a very jolly evening enjoyed by all.

The Preston Pop-Up Choir is holding another charity concert on Saturday 27th June. Hope to see you there.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Firstly, a big thank you to all who attended the meetings and contributed to the initial discussion. The purpose of this note is to inform those who were unable to attend and to update those who were.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)?

An NDP establishes general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, like:

- where new homes and offices should be built
- what they should look like

The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want.

Neighbourhood plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area and will form part of the Joint Local Plan.

The Three Stages are

1. Getting set-up and deciding on the area (we are moving to step 2 on the below flow)
2. Community consultation and evidence
3. Submitting the plan

Why should Preston St Mary consider adopting an NDP?

- Babergh's annual house building target has been increased by 86%
- Each Parish may be expected to contribute to the housing stock
- Planning reforms are being introduced by Central Government
- An NDP is written by the local community and provides an opportunity to shape and influence development
- Once adopted by the LPA an NDP has statutory weight and status

Next Steps

As discussed at the meetings - for an NDP to be adopted it needs to be approved by over 50% of the Parish electorate. Approx 40% of the Parish households were represented at the two meetings.

This is clearly below where we need to be come the final vote, however, as the vast majority at the meeting were in favour of proceeding, the Parish Council has voted to approve funding and move to the next step – Formation of the Project Steering Group

The good news is that we already have commitment from two residents for the Steering Group.

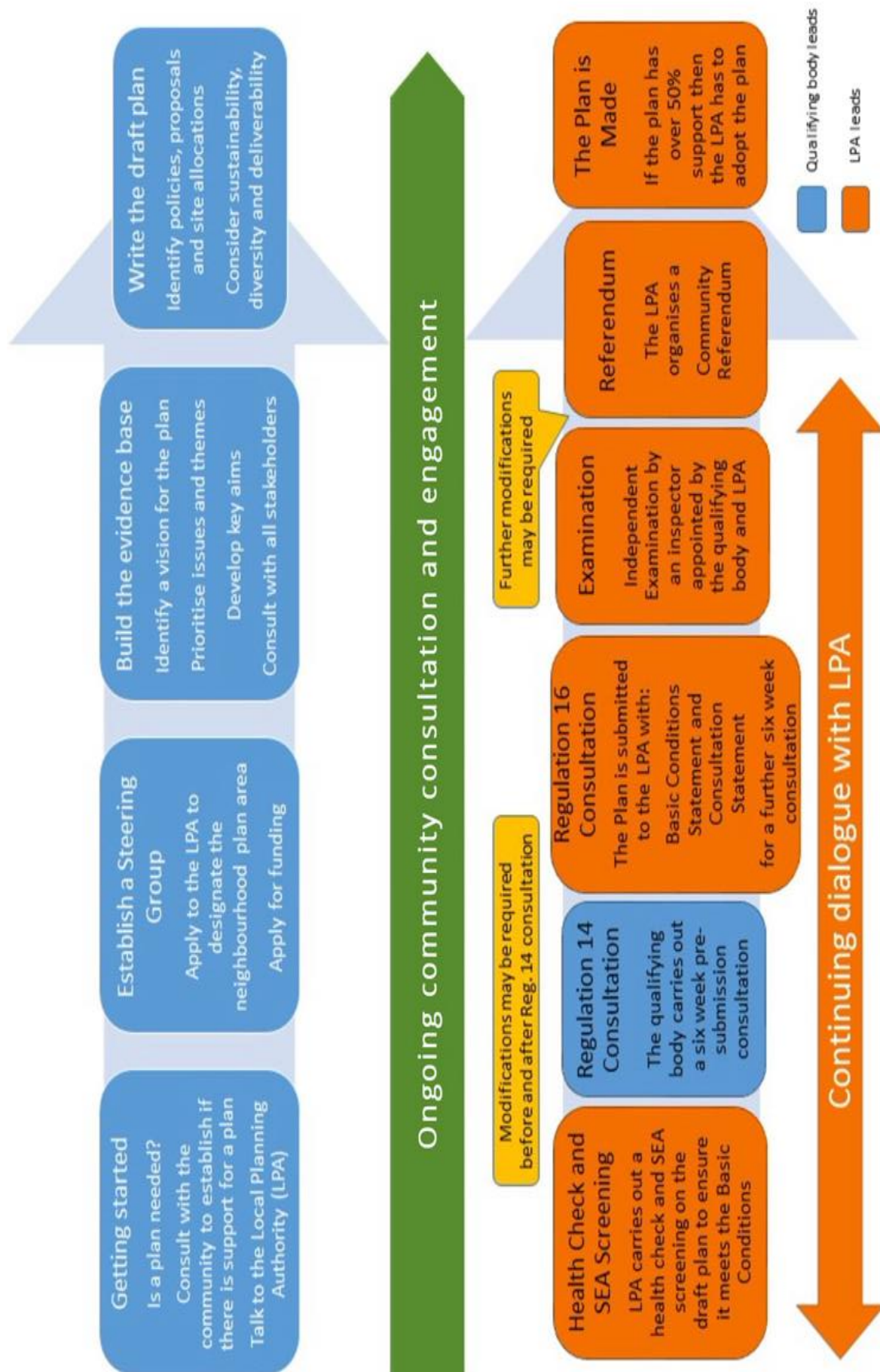
However, we need three or four more, closing date 30th April 2026.

To register your interest for the steering group or to discuss what is involved, please do not hesitate to contact me, details below.

Once we have the steering group, we can then meet, agree the scope, select a consultant partner and get the project underway.....we can't do it without you!!

Contact Details: **David Humphreys** e-mail: humphreys20@sky.com
mobile: 07984 924597

Also, at the meeting I said that I would share my presentation to all who were interested. You should, by now, have received your copy by e-mail. If not (I may not have been able to decipher the handwriting) or if you wish to add yourself to the list, please do let me know.





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- Hip and knee pain
- Ankle and foot pain
- Headache
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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

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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.

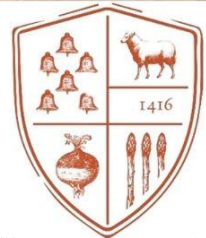
Ring **01787 247 726** or e-mail Hua@lavenhamphysio.co.uk to book an initial appointment. For more information, see www.LavenhamPhysio.co.uk

APRIL & MAY 2026



The Six Bells

Preston St. Mary



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Upcoming Events

Friday 3rd April- LIVE MUSIC from Eleanor Hudson
from 7:30pm
eleanorhudsonsinger.com

Sunday 5th April- Easter Sunday
serving 12pm-3:30pm

Friday 17th April- Italian Night
from 6pm (booking crucial)

Saturday 25th April- Breakfast 8:30am-11am

Call us on 01787247440 or email reservations@thesixbellspreston.com



“Eat drink and be hoppy” Did you know...?

Easter is named after the pagan goddess Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of dawn, light and fertility. This spring festival was later merged with Christian celebrations.

The Easter bunny is based on the German egg laying hare (Osterhase) symbolising new life and fertility.



Puritan party poopers banned Easter celebrations in 1647 but they were later restored around 1660.

The date is different each year but celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox of 21st March.

Dancing is strictly *verboden* in certain parts of Germany on Good Friday to honour the solemnity of the day.



76% of people who receive a chocolate Easter bunny prefer to eat the ears first.

The tradition of rolling eggs, especially in Scotland, represents the sun's movement across the sky, a pagan custom adopted into Easter celebrations.



Ukraine started the tradition of painting and decorating eggs at Easter. Chocolate eggs first appeared in France and Germany in the early 1800's and Fry's produced the first chocolate Easter egg in the UK in 1873.



The tallest recorded chocolate Easter egg was entered into the Guinness Book of Records in 2011. It was made in Italy and stood at 10.39m high, weighing in at 7,200kg, which made it taller than a giraffe and heavier than an elephant.

*If you have little ones to amuse over Easter, Hollow Trees Farm shop in Semer has Easter egg hunts for little ones. Further afield try Melford Hall, Nowton Park in Bury St Edmunds & Ickworth Park.
Happy Easter!*

How to make chocolate Easter eggs from real eggs

You will need:

- Raw eggs** - the exact number to be determined by how many you wish to make
- Chocolate** (plain, milk or white) - same quantity as volume of egg, see recipe below
- A little flavourless cooking oil: groundnut or vegetable
- Egg carton(s)
- Piping bag and nozzle or squirt bottle

You can save the raw eggs, which you will remove from their shells, for baking a traditional Easter Simnel cake or for making scrambled eggs. This Easter task is especially fun with little helpers.

Holding a raw egg with one hand, with your other hand gently pierce the top of the egg with a needle or with the ends of a sharp pair of small scissors. Continue enlarging the hole to about the 10p piece size or enough to drain the egg white and yolk. Pour into a measuring jug. This will determine the volume of melted chocolate you'll need. Exact measurements are variable given the different sizes of eggs. Keep the raw eggs covered in the fridge until you need them.



Pour a drop of neutral cooking oil into the cavity of each shell and roll around; this helps prevent the set chocolate from sticking to the inside of the shell.

The messy bit: break the chocolate up into pieces and gently melt in a heatproof bowl placed above a pan of barely simmering water (*bain-marie*), stirring from time to time until melted. Scrape this into a piping bag with a nozzle that fits comfortably into the shell hole you've made. (If you are using a squirt bottle, break the chocolate pieces into the squirt bottle and melt in a microwave, then squirt into the cavity)

Place your eggs upright into the egg box with the hole facing the top. Refrigerate until solidified. When set, these shells can then be decorated in any way you like, or leave them '*au naturel*'. When ready to 'serve', put each chocolate egg into an egg cup on Easter morning hiding the broken part.

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QUIZ NEWS

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.

QUIZ TIME ANSWERS from Page 16

1. Beirut
2. Sweden (267,570)
3. 1863
4. 88
5. Norwegian
6. 11
7. Friday
8. Monaco
9. Yellow
10. The Sargasso Sea
11. Bermuda
12. Genghis Khan

HISTORY NOTES - CHILDHOOD IN LAVENHAM 100 YEARS AGO

Joe Risby was born in 1911, the son of a Lavenham farm labourer who won the DCM during the Boer War. In the 1990s Joe was interviewed as part of a Channel 4 series called 'Green and Pleasant Land'. The series was an examination of rural life in the first half of the 20th Century, expressed in "the authentic voices of a broad spectrum of our oldest countrymen and women....the aristocrats and their servants, the agricultural labourer and the farmer, the poacher and the gamekeeper".

When I left school I'd have loved to have been an engine driver. I used to watch the trains and run on the bridge just outside the station to see them come underneath. I wanted to drive one day and see the corn growing higher every day and see everything changing in the countryside as the days went by. If my father had been an engine driver there was a very good chance I would have been, but he was a farm worker and I finished up on the farm the same.

With acknowledgements to Channel 4 Books

LAVENHAM GARDENING CLUB

Firstly, thank you to Alan Green, who has kindly agreed to share progress in renovating his garden in Lavenham. Alan will give us regular updates on how he is getting on. And here are my notes for April/May:

April and May are probably my favourite months of the year - an exciting time for sowing outdoors and indoors, when the garden is full of spring flowers and blossom and we can get on with all the plans for summer. Once frosts are past, tender plants and hanging baskets come outside and bedding plants and tender vegetables, like beans, can be planted out.

The lawn can be mown regularly, gradually reducing the mow height, and it's a time for keeping on top of weed growth, which seems to explode now. Leave some native flowers to support insects. Check for slugs and snails on new growth - young leaves are especially tasty - and watch out for signs of vine weevil in pots.

If we have a dry spell, water containers and make sure hanging baskets don't dry out. It's a good time to visit gardens where rhododendrons and azaleas grow - or try some in pots of ericaceous compost at home.

Plants for April/May: English Bluebells, lily of the valley, cowslips, tulips, forget-me-nots.

Club News: Even though it was wet underfoot, the rain cleared and the snowdrops were delightful on our visit to Easton Lodge in February. At the end of the month it was time for the AGM, with garden questions afterwards. We appreciated our entertaining and very knowledgeable speaker in March - Alan Gray, of the Old Vicarage Garden, East Ruston (considered one of the best private gardens in England).

Weds 29th April Talk by Hawk Honey 'The Forgotten Bees'

Sat 9th May Plant sale in Lavenham Market Place 9.30am - 2.30pm A variety of annuals and perennials (*if you have plants to donate please call 01787 247489*)

Weds 13th May Outing to The Hall, Tendring

Weds 27th May Talk by Simon McWilliams of Hedgehog Plants 'Unusual Plants'

Weds 17th June Outing to Barnsdale Gardens non-members welcome, 01787 247489

New members always welcome. Annual subscription £20, meetings held on last Weds of month at Lavenham Village Hall 7.30pm

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

Carolyn Jenkins

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies." – Gertrude Jekyll

Piece by Alan Green, who is renovating the garden at the property he and his partner have recently moved into, in Lavenham. Alan will update us on progress in future articles.

The truth is I'm impatient. Taking on a once-loved but neglected garden, largely single-handed, has proven a greater challenge than my complacent initial assessment suggested.

Head full of ideas, I started to formulate a mental picture of what I hoped to achieve. The main feature would be a deep border along the rear boundary; a smaller-scale version of the one at Great Dixter perhaps?

A broad outline existed already but it was overgrown with weeds, couch grass and hawthorn. There were numerous tree stumps and the raised concrete base of a long-gone summer house. The stumps had to go (with some outside help) but the concrete we decided to keep, suitably disguised and surrounded by fragrant planting, to form a bower with a bench and provide a focal point.

Having exposed some of the soil, my immediate task was to dig over the area thoroughly, removing weeds and remaining roots. Things looked promising: my fork slipped effortlessly into the friable topsoil; this was going to be child's play, compared to the heavy Wealden clay with which I had wrestled in my previous garden. A little deeper and the truth was revealed, as both spade and fork struck something hard and immovable. This turned out to be a complete and unyielding stratum of flints, some the size of ostrich eggs. These and the tenacious roots of comfrey, field bindweed and equally invasive winter aconites made for heavy work.

Meanwhile, indulging my desire for instant results, I was tempted by various plant sales, garden centres and on-line offers. Soon there was a backlog of plants of every description in need of a home. I should like to claim that I was inspired by Christopher Lloyd's doctrine of random planting and letting, simply, nature to do her 'thing'. But the truth is I just needed to get them in somewhere.

A whole season of hard labour (interspersed with lengthy periods of building work, making work in the garden all but impossible) was followed by many months of the same in the succeeding season, without much sense of progress. Only towards the end of last summer did I begin to feel that my efforts had borne fruit. Surveying the now colour-filled border, I was surprised and gratified to discover a more harmonious palette than I had been resigned to expect. My subconscious choices had evidently been more discriminating than I had feared.

It is now February and the sites of the dormant perennials are thickly carpeted with pretty yellow-headed aconites, cheerfully mocking my months of determined effort at their extermination. No sign yet of the bindweed reasserting itself but it's early days. Dame Nature's eternal lesson: all our attempts to dominate her are ultimately futile and doomed to failure.

APRIL & MAY 2026



LAVENHAM LIBRARY

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

**Tracy Borman talk on Saturday 13th June 2026
2.30pm – 4.30pm at Lavenham Village Hall**



Our patron Tracy Borman will speak about her new historical novel *The House of Boleyn*.

Bookings are available from **16 APRIL 10am** from the library where cash or card payments can be made or online via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>
Cost £14.

Doors open at 2pm.

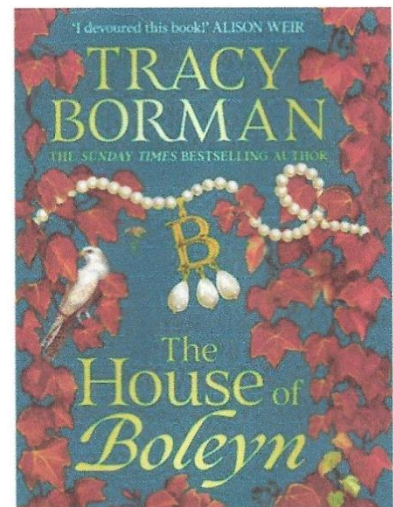
All proceeds from booking sales will go to The Friends of Lavenham Library to Support their work for the community of Lavenham.

Book Bingo from 5 March to 30 November

Spring into reading with our fun book bingo challenges for children and adults! Part of the National Year of Reading campaign.

We are hosting a Book Bingo with some great prizes available! The bingo is a chance to explore the huge range of Books on offer in our libraries and read something new. Our "Spring into Reading" bingo sheets are available to Download online or you can pick up a copy from the library.

There are challenges for both children and adults to inspire everyone to find new books to read and have fun!



Contact Details

Lavenham Library, Lavenham Village Hall, Church St, Lavenham CO10 9QT
Tel No: 01787 737338 Email: lavenham.library@suffolk.gov.uk

APRIL & MAY 2026

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. Elke Cattermole

Tel: 07957 419055

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL	LAVENHAM	7.00PM	COMPLINE
THURSDAY 2nd APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY	LAVENHAM	7.00PM	HOLY COMMUNION
FRIDAY 3rd APRIL GOOD FRIDAY	PRESTON	12 NOON	PRESTON PEOPLE'S PASSION
	LAVENHAM	2.00PM	LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS
SUNDAY 5TH APRIL EASTER SUNDAY	PRESTON	6.30AM	FIRST LIGHT NEW FIRE HOLY COMMUNION Followed by Bacon Rolls and Buck's Fizz Breakfast
	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
SUNDAY 12th APRIL EASTER 2	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 19th APRIL EASTER 3	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	11.30AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) Followed by Refreshments
SUNDAY 26th APRIL CONVERSION OF ST PAUL EASTER 4	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG

APRIL & MAY 2026

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

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Tel: 07957 419055

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR MAY 2026

SUNDAY 3rd MAY EASTER 5	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 10th MAY EASTER 6 ROGATION	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12.00 NOON	ROGATION SERVICE followed by blessing of crops and BBQ at Priory Farm
SUNDAY 17th MAY EASTER 7	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	11.30AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) Followed by Refreshments
SUNDAY 24th MAY PENTECOST	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 31 st MAY TRINITY SUNDAY	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)