

Revelation Christian Resource Centre

This is a great place to browse and purchase Christian books (new and second hand), cards, gift wrap and all sorts of Christian gifts, as well as enjoy a cuppa or a meal in their splendid café!

Revelation is an ecumenical Christian resource centre and café, offering a bookshop, a meeting place, and a welcoming refuge for refreshment. They are open to visitors of any faith or none.

They are located in the St Michael-at-Plea Church on Redwell Street by the pedestrian crossing at the junction with Queens Street NR2 4SN

Opening times: Monday– Saturday 10am – 4pm Café open Tuesday to Saturday closing at 3pm.

Phone 01603 619731

Check out their website <https://www.norwichcrc.co.uk/>

Customers & supporters for many years, Marina & Chris

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

28 Jan	Mulbarton	Mason and Mia Chandler
4 Feb	Mulbarton	Teddy Sutton

Church website <http://www.mulbchurch.org.uk>

Rector: Rev. Adrian Miller: 01508 571167 - adrian@mulbchurch.org.uk

This month's editor: Chris Carter

Articles included in Mardle do not necessarily reflect the views of the church leadership

MARDLE APRIL & MAY 2024

Mulbarton Benefice newsletter

FROM THE RECTORY

Email: adrian@mulbchurch.org.uk
(Regular day off Friday)

Easter Hope!

Easter reminds us that hope need not be lost. That even if the road is dark and difficult, the road will not always be like that. There always, always lies light at the end of the tunnel. Our role is simply to walk into it, to be willing to open our eyes and hearts to the reality of it.

There is plenty going on in our world, in our personal lives, in our churches, and in our parishes. Many good things and many challenging things, all mixed up. As I write this, just before we head into Holy Week, we recall Jesus preparing Himself to head into Jerusalem, knowing exactly how dark and difficult the path was to become for Him, the personal cost that He was going to have pay.

And yet, the Scriptures tell us this, that Jesus “endured the cross, despising its shame, for the sake of the joy that was set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2).

What a thought! It is both realistic about how life can be, and hopeful about how life will be.

I pray that your Holy Week, Easter and beyond will be bright with the hope and joy of our risen Saviour!

Yours, following Jesus, and ever seeking to share the journey, *Adrian*



FOLLOWING JESUS
Sharing the journey

WITH THE VILLAGES OF MULBARTON,
FLORDON, BRACON ASH AND HETHEL



PCC Updates

Mulbarton—21 Feb, 20 March; next meeting 24 April

Andrea Lovick joined us in February, as our PCC appointee on Mulbarton Community Choir, which functions under the umbrella of the church. The choir has 50-60 members, performs 4-5 times per year (Christmas carols, 2 concerts and "Doorway of Hope" at Norwich cathedral. We discussed safeguarding, privacy, finances, health and safety, which is all on track. We agreed to support Bev Theobald being licensed as an Authorised Worship Assistant, and talked through changes to the benefice service pattern, introducing bi-monthly "Wild Church", and suspending the monthly 8am service, promoting instead a monthly mid-week benefice communion in Flordon. We reviewed the recent sound system report, and noted the completion of the major tree work in the churchyard. We made more progress with EcoChurch status, and a strategy for clergy support. Of special concern is the need to recruit a new treasurer.

Sarah Miller joined us in March, whom we employ 9 hours per week to assist with admin. She reported positive feel about increased use of Harvest House, moves to EcoChurch and outreach to local community, including our porch foodbank, and new resources she is using to maintain relationships with wedding couples. We reviewed the church tables at the "Mind, Body, Spirit" fair, which had worked well. We minuted thanks to Jacqui Roper, who had been in touch with all volunteers who had been helping during lockdown, and identified the need to recruit someone to lead on carrying the local volunteer coordination project forward, until which time we would park it. We reviewed and progressed some finance and safeguarding items, and agreed a list of policies and procedures to keep under monitoring. We noted progress on active faculty cases: bench & bike rack granted; nest boxes, blinds & major renovation in process; and memorial tree extras postponed.

Bracon Ash—25 Jan; next meeting 23 April APCM

We reviewed upcoming changes in the deanery, reporting back from meeting with Bishop Ian on 23rd Jan, which secretary and treasurer had attended, still uncertain what the future will hold. We noted thanks for £1,813 income from the patron's winter concert, paid into the restricted building fund. We unanimously approved the accounts, ready to present at APCM. We noted the much needed repair of the oak gate post, and extra posts installed in the car park, and dealt with PCC training and practical arrangements for upcoming services.

Hethel—19 Feb; next meeting 9 April

The treasurer reported moving to the diocesan church finance package, in readiness to hand over. We agreed to trial a SumUp payment machine at the choir concert, & to place some legacy booklets in church. We were given List B approval to proceed with tower work. We agreed a plan to fill in paint the floor ledger-stone. We reviewed safeguarding status, deanery changes and past events and spent time planning future events, including holy week & rogation events, a bat walk, cream teas, and a possible eco event in partnership with NWT &/or WyNG.

Flordon—31 Jan; next meeting 23 April

The urgent Gift Aid reclaim is underway. We reviewed systems for maintaining churchyard, grateful to many volunteers who help, and agreed to ask Parish Council to review how they contribute. We noted that we only managed to pay £1500 out of £5150 towards parish share in 2023, just 29%, which left no reserves.

Hethel News

Quick! Mardle readers just might catch this before the Community Choir sings in Hethel Church on Sunday



24 March at 3pm. Lots of favourite songs from the choir's repertoire with a 'filling' of tea and plentiful home-made cake sandwiched in the middle. <https://bit.ly/hethelmcc> for tickets, or turn up to the door and beg to be admitted! There's a suggested donation but also the possibility of paying what you can afford. We should have the benefice card reader in operation, too.

On **Good Friday** (29 March at 2pm), take some time out to reflect on Jesus' final hour on the cross - and in his human life. A mixture of quiet, Bible readings, poems and music centred on Jesus' seven last words. Hot cross buns at King John's Thorn afterwards, but the real attraction should be to step aside for awhile to contemplate the enormity of what God has done for us.

Further ahead, the Hethel APCM is on 22 May (7pm in church) and Beating the Bounds happens on 26 May, leaving the church at 2.30pm, back for tea and cake at 4.30.

Blessings, *Peter Nicholls*

Mardle Musings from Maurice

Why don't they do something about it?! Look at all the trouble in the world. In this country. It's all a mess. So, why don't they get on and do something to sort it all out?

But wait. Who are they? We blame *them*, don't we, but what about us? We've got more freedom now than ever, but with greater freedom comes greater responsibility. Shouldn't *we* speak out? But who would take notice of you or me? One against the world? But there is one thing we can do, and that's look after our own little corner. Start with ourselves and work up. All the great reforms of history have started from the bottom.

So how do we reform ourselves? Well, there's only one person who can do that for us. And with His help, we can make a positive change in us and the world, one act and decision, at a time.



Ethical Christian #4

I'm writing this after a sunny day and lots of delicious signs of spring in terms of daffodils, blossom and some beautiful camellia and magnolia displays, so I thought about digging into Ethical Gardening!

There's no way I can cover everything here but just share a few thoughts, pointers, suppliers you might want to think about, look up or use.

1) Sounds simple (because it is) but be kind to your soil - MULCH.

Reincorporate organic matter left over from what you've grown, make your own compost or use an organic, peat free one: FertileFibre has 100% organic 100% peat free, award winning composts for a variety of purposes. They also have a DIY plastic free compost option that's worth checking out.

2) Carbon footprint - a big subject but some easy starters:

- Try to avoid plastic packaging and pots. Terracotta or galvanised metal ones would be better. Your broken terracotta ones can be used for drainage too.
- Natural methods for pest control. I use a milk solution on my roses to try and help against rose black spot. Nancy Birtwhistle has some recipes in her Clean and Green book for the garden I am planning to try this year. Why don't you share your natural methods that work for you. Send me them and I can put them together to share around the church community.
- Share cuttings/divided plants; local plant sales; allow areas to grow wild too (wonderful for biodiversity and local pollinators to have native plants or 'flowers in the wrong place!')

3) A couple of check outs for you:

<https://thewildlifecommunity.co.uk/collections/plastic-free-gardening> wonderful selection of non plastic, ethical and natural material gardening products. Loving their reusable, fairly traded FSC-certified natural rubber seed trays and their certified organic sheep's wool pellets for fertilisation sound fascinating (and much, much more!)

<https://www.greenchoices.org/eco-shops/gardening-suppliers> a helpful collection of places to go to shop as well as a gardening section that offers lots of advice about different aspects of gardening greener.

Rachel Burchell



MULBARTON GROUP OF CHURCHES

HOLY WEEK 2024

www.mulbchurch.org.uk

March 25 | Fig Monday

**11 CATHEDRAL - BLESSING OILS
& RENEWING VOWS**

March 28 | Maundy Thursday

**9:15 HARVEST HOUSE, PRAYERS
10:30 FLORDON COMMUNION
7:30 MULBARTON COMMUNION**

March 29 | Good Friday

**10 RECTORY, WALK WITH CROSS
12 HARVEST HOUSE, HOT X BUNS
2 HETHEL, MEDITATIVE HOUR**

March 30 | Black Saturday

8 CATHEDRAL - EASTER VIGIL

March 31 | Easter Sunday

**9 BRACON ASH COMMUNION
10 MULBARTON COMMUNION
6:30 FLORDON EASTER PRAISE**



FOLLOWING JESUS

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PLANT SALE AT FLORDON

SATURDAY 18th MAY 2—4pm
in the Church/Community Centres
(NR15 1RP)

Perennial, Annual House and vegetable
plants at a fraction of Garden centre prices
Tea/Coffee and Biscuits
All proceeds to Flordon Church



Mulbarton Community Choir

Advance notice

Mulbarton Community Choir`s next concert is :-
Saturday 15th June at Mulbarton Village Hall

Details of tickets to follow soon.

Keep the date in your diary

MALGA EVENTS



Sunday May 19th

Plant sale at
The Worlds End Pub Car Park
10.00am to 1pm

Sunday July 21st

Mulbarton Open Gardens

10.30-4.30pm
Refreshments and Maps available
from Harvest House

JOIN US AT THE RECTORY

*Spring Coffee
Mornings &
Gift Sale*

Sat 13th April
10.30am - 12.30pm



Please join us at The Rectory for a cuppa, a chat and a chance to buy uplifting gifts and unique cards from Sarah (not compulsory!)

Sat April 13th
10.30am-12.30pm

All welcome.

Bring anyone you may like to invite. RSVP if possible so we can make sure we have enough lovely things to enjoy together
Sarah

Ascension Day

Thursday 9th May

(Often forgotten as it falls on a Thursday!)



Anyone welcome to a short service in the Hanover Lounge at 2.30pm: ASCENSION Day hymns, prayers, short talk, and refreshments.

Jill Wright

Eco Church

In the last Mardle you may have read that the PCC has agreed that we will try to achieve at least the Bronze Eco Church award by July 2024. The PCC has identified some quick wins, such as installing a compost bin and a bike rack in the churchyard, both of which should be in place in the next few weeks.



However, to really embed the ethos of Eco Church and ensure that whatever we do is sustainable in the long run, we want everyone to feel involved with this and would value input from all members of the church family and beyond. We are hoping that a lot of people doing small things will ultimately result in a big change.

We know we can utilise the experience from other churches who have taken this path and certainly connecting with other organisations and groups in the village such as the school, MALGA Environment Group, and the uniform groups, would be part of the process, as we will be able to achieve far more by working together with others in the community.

In order to take this forward, a group of interested church members would be wonderful. An initial meeting will take place on **Mon 20th May, 7:30pm at Jill Wright's home, 22 Birchfield Gardens.**

This will be an opportunity to learn more about Eco Church, find out what other churches have been doing, and begin to plan what we might be able to achieve and decide on one of two ideas we can realistically put in place over the next year. If you cannot make the meeting but are still interested, do contact me and I will keep you in touch with the way forward.

Heather Wells

heather@mulbchurch.org.uk

How to be a greener Christian #12

“Plastic is a dazzling example of how we humans invent things and start using them without really understanding the impacts.” So quotes Mike Berners-Lee in *How Bad are Bananas*. “... Bad, he agrees, but “they have a pretty low carbon footprint”. Au contraire, the Good Energy blog asserts, “By mid-century, plastic is predicted to take up 13-17% of the planet’s carbon budget.” Massive! Read the full article at bit.ly/plastic-climate



As I’ve said before, part of what we can (ought to?!) do is to make our views felt to politicians, local, national and international. Noisily and obstreperously where necessary! Avaaz (secure.avaaz.org/page/en/highlights/) does good work – you can use the pink box to sign up for regular petition opportunities. But can we cash in on the looming general election? I hope so: as a benefice we’re going to try to get candidates here for a ‘climate hustings’ when the moment is right. Make sure you come, listen, question, make your point and consider your vote.

If you’re lucky enough to have a non-government pension, you can also exert pressure by asking awkward questions of the provider. bit.ly/goodpensions has some alarming headlines, such as “UK-based pension schemes have more than £88 billion invested in fossil fuel firms such as Shell and BP, the equivalent of £3,000 per pension policyholder. Meanwhile, for every £10 put into a pension, £2 is helping to fund deforestation.”

As you probably know, the internet is a recipe treasure trove! Not least the BBC good food archive.

This month try Herby rice with roasted veg, chickpeas & halloumi? Go to bit.ly/bbcgf1. To critique myself, it uses courgettes and peppers, grown at this time of year in Israel, Morocco, Netherlands, Spain or the UK (too many food miles). Halloumi has a slightly bigger carbon footprint than cheddar.

Peter Nicholls

MAY 2024

APRIL / MAY 2024

*Please Check Church Website for information
and any changes nearer the time*

APRIL 2024

Tues 2	2.30pm	Bracon Ash Village Hall: Teapot Tuesday
Wed 3	2pm	Flordon Chit Chat: Flordon Church
Thurs 4	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer
Sun 7	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion
Mon 8	9.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Thurs 11	9.15am 2.30pm	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer Hanover Gardens: Mid week Service
Sat 13	10.30am	Mulbarton rectory: Spring Coffee Morning & Gift Sale (see page 9)
Sun 14	8.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Hethel Church; Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Flordon Church: Evening Prayer
Mon 15	9.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Thurs 18	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer
Sat 20	10am	Flordon Churchyard Tidy Up
Sun 21	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion
Mon 22	9.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Tues 23	10.30am 2.00pm	Bracon Ash Church: Annual Church Meeting Mulbarton Social Club: Mardlers
Thurs 25	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer
Thurs 25	10.30am	Flordon Church: Mid-week Communion
Sun 28	10.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	Hanover Gardens: Church@Hanover Harvest House: Together Meal Mulbarton Church: Together Service
Mon 29	9.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Tues 30	7.30pm	Flordon Church: Flordon Community Trust AGM

Wed 1	2pm	Flordon Chit Chat: Flordon Church
Thurs 2	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer
Sun 5	9.00am 10.00am 12Noon	Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer Mulbarton Church: Wild Church Mulbarton Church: Baptism
Tues 7	2.30pm	Bracon Ash Village Hall: Teapot Tuesday
Thurs 9	9.15am 2.30pm	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer Hanover Gardens: Mid Week Ascension Day Service (see page 9)
Sun 12	8.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Hethel Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Flordon Church: Evening Prayer
Mon 13	9.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Weds 15	7.30pm	Harvest House: Mulbarton Church Annual Meeting
Thurs 16	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer
Sat 18	2.00pm	Flordon Church: Plant Sale (see page 4)
Sun19	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion Mardle Deadline—editor Sarah Miller articles to sarah@mulbchurch.org.uk Subject “Mardle”
Sun 19	10.00am	Worlds End Pub: MALGA Plant Sale (See Page 4)
Mon 20	9.30am 7.30pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub 22 Birchfield Gardens: Eco Church meeting (see page 8)
Weds 22	7.00pm	Hethel Church: Annual Church Meeting
Thurs 23	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer
Thur 23	10.30am	Flordon Church: Mid –week Communion
Sun 26	10.30am 2.30pm 6.00pm 7.00pm	Hanover Gardens: Church@Hanover Hethel Church: Beat The Bounds Harvest House: Together Meal Mulbarton Church: Together Service
Tues 28	2.00pm 7.30pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Mardlers Flordon Church: Annual Church Meeting
Thurs 30	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee & Prayer