

Revelation Christian Resource Centre

Revelation is an ecumenical Christian resource centre and café, with a bookshop, offering a welcome refuge in the city.

A great place to browse and purchase -

- * Christian Resources,
- * books (new and second hand)
- * faith inspired gifts.

They are located in St Michael-at-Plea Church on Redwell Street by the pedestrian crossing. 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>

Marina and Chris

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

5 May Mulbarton Oscar Rowe

Funeral and Burial

22 March Mulbarton Patricia Lingwood

8 April Bracon Ash Trevor Clifton

9 April Hethel Irene Woodward

22 April Mulbarton Jill Askham

1 May Mulbarton Phyllis Myhill

23 May Flordon Doreen Nicholson

Church Funeral

3 May Mulbarton Richard Morriss

21 May Mulbarton Helena Smith

Weddings

27 April Bracon Ash Jo Phillips and Harry Tully

7 May Mulbarton Alice Dalton and Kane Seymour

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

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

This month's editor: Sarah Miller

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

MARDLE

June / July

2024

Mulbarton Benefice newsletter

FROM THE RECTORY

Email: adrian@mulbchurch.org.uk
(Regular Day Off: Friday)

I write this in the midst of annual meeting season, having just come back from a fabulous retreat at the foot of the actual “purple-headed mountain” that inspired the line in the famous hymn “All things bright and beautiful”. I arranged and conducted three funerals just before going away, and have come back to seven funerals/burials, which is unusual, but always such a privilege to do.

My annual report looks back at 2023, where I noted the dramatic fall in number of weddings in the benefice compared to the previous year or two (only 3 in total last year, compared to about 20 in the two years prior!). And then the increase in funerals and burials (47 events in 2023 compared to 37 the previous year).

As well as reviewing the changing Sunday patterns, community work, and the ways we seek to resource the worshipping community in these four villages, I also consider some of the big things happening in the wider church and something of my own personal journey over the last few years. My full report is available on the church website.

It is likely tomorrow's villages will have less clergy time than today's; but whatever happens with the future of the church as an institution, or the deployment of clergy locally, I am committed to using the opportunities I have available to me now to do as much good as I can for the communities I serve, while I am able. The values of truth, justice and peace continue to guide. However falteringly, I aspire to live out those values more fully each day, following Jesus' example and teaching, and sharing the journey.

Thanks for all the support, understanding, patience and kindness, as we journey on together.

Adrian



FOLLOWING JESUS

Sharing the journey

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





PCC Updates

Mulbarton—24 April; 15 May (APCM); next meeting 5 June

We approved the accounts and reports for the annual meeting. We noted a steep increase in the parish share request for this year. We reviewed the lease and occupation license for the upstairs rooms in Harvest House, and agreed new terms for July onwards. We reviewed the sound system in church and agreed a course of action to update and improve within our means, with thanks noted to Steve for all his work on the system and to Adrian's dad for sharing the benefit of his professional experience. We reviewed EcoChurch status and actions and agreed a date to complete the work on the church path. Church treasurer role urgently needing recruitment.

At the APCM, reports were circulated ahead of time to the Electoral Roll and reviewed at the meeting. They are available online. Tim Hayward was elected churchwarden, with one other vacancy. Neither deanery synod position was filled. Five out of the nine lay representative positions were filled. The treasurer and elector roll officer both retired from post, leaving vacancies—thanks due to Sue and Theresa.

Bracon Ash—23 April (APCM); next meeting 5 June

Heather Barnes was elected churchwarden, with one other vacancy, and also filled the deanery synod post. The four lay representatives were re-elected to the PCC, leaving two vacancies.

Hethel—11 April; next meeting 22 May (APCM)

We approved the accounts and reports ahead of annual meeting. We reviewed safeguarding, especially the need for training. The tower project has attracted some grant money, with more grant applications in the pipeline, thanks due to Peter. An incident with a trip hazard by the front gate had highlighted the need for action, and the hazard is now painted neon yellow. We reviewed events, and began to think succession planning, since Peter will be retiring from role as both churchwarden and treasurer at the annual meeting.

Flordon—23 April; next meeting 28 May (APCM)

A history booklet for the church had been updated and we agreed to print and sell for £1 each. The Gift Aid backlog claim had gone in on schedule. Annual accounts were approved. We dealt with safeguarding training, churchyard maintenance and identified some urgent work from the Quinquennial Inspection report. We also agreed a trial change to the service pattern, moving from an early Sunday monthly Communion to a later mid-week monthly Communion.

Eco Church Update

As part of our journey to become an Eco Church we want to ensure that the land and spaces we are responsible for, such as the churchyard and Harvest House, are managed for both people and nature. The aim is to make the churchyard more welcoming and to encourage people to use the space to enjoy the natural environment. You may have noticed that we now have some signs in the churchyard explaining why some areas have been left uncut at present.

As well as installing a bike rack and some bird boxes, there is now a compost bin in the churchyard to encourage visitors to place dead flowers there rather than in the general waste bin. The church is also working with Norfolk Wildlife Trust to get a better understanding of the wildlife currently in the churchyard and to get advice to help manage the area to encourage greater biodiversity.

A volunteer from Norfolk Wildlife Trust will be visiting Mulbarton Churchyard several times this year to undertake a survey noting the flora and fauna to be found in the churchyard. The first preliminary visit was in early April, and as well as noting the more common wildflowers such as forget-me-nots, violets, bluebells and cowslips, the volunteer also found at least one example of the Goldilocks Buttercup. The volunteer made a second visit later in the month and undertook a more detailed survey of one particular area near the white picket fence at the front of the churchyard. She noted several plants such as Ivy-Leafed Speedwell and Ladies Bedstraw that had not been found during previous surveys. However positive identification of these species will only be confirmed after a detailed look through an eye lens and checking in reference books. For those that are interested, there is a list in the Church porch of wildflowers found on previous churchyard surveys undertaken in 1996, 2000 and 2005.

We are also putting together a Churchyard Trail leaflet, which gives people an opportunity to discover more about the history of the church building, some of the monuments and headstones, as well as information about the trees and the trees and flowers that can be found there. The trail leaflet will be hopefully available from Sunday 21st July, the date of the Mulbarton Open Gardens event.

Heather

Mulbarton Open Gardens on Sunday 21st July

MALGA (Mulbarton Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association) are organising a day of open gardens across Mulbarton, raising funds for Vision Norfolk—a charity working with people living with sight loss and impairment locally here in Norfolk. Private gardens will be opened to the public to explore and enjoy. Tickets, maps and refreshments available from Harvest House 10.30am –4.30pm.

Join us for our
Summer Concert of Old Favourites
15th June
at Mulbarton Village Hall 7pm
Tickets available £5 adult and £1 child



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-mokorri>

And again as we launch **Mulbarton Mini-Festival** on Fri 28th June, 7pm
at the Social Club / Village Hall.

Mardlers

Mardlers is an afternoon of tea and chat and an opportunity to meet others
at the Social Club, Mulbarton Village Hall on the
4th Tuesday of every month.

**Anyone wanting to enjoy good company
over some tea and cake is most welcome.**

We meet from 2 - 4 pm and transport to and from
the meetings can be offered.

Just speak to Sue Mellows 07936 703124 , Tracey
Salisbury 578068 or Heather Wells 78267 for more information



Small Group Resource Review

In the **Tuesday evening 7pm Ministry Group**, led by Fran Kittle, which takes
place in various homes, we have recently started a new program, called **Holy
Habits**. This is an in depth study of the life of the early church, based
around the text of Acts 2: 42-47, in which we see 10 characteristics of their life
together, the so-called Holy Habits.

The core idea is that of missional discipleship, that if we live the way the
early church did, this encourages others to join the adventure of following
Jesus (which aligns perfectly with the Benefice vision of "following Jesus and
sharing the journey"). The website holyhabs.org.uk provides full details of the
programme, which can be run church-wide over a time span of 2 years. We
are easily adapting it to Ministry Group use.

Basically, we have a book written by Andrew Roberts, an introductory /
overview booklet and then a booklet on each of the 10 Holy Habits.
We started the first week looking at Habit #7, Eating Together, and now begin
each of our meetings with this Holy Habit. For the second week, we looked at
Habit #6 Serving. This week, the third week, we will (start to) look at Habit #1
Biblical Teaching "Acts 2v42: They devoted themselves to the apostles'
teaching...."
Trevor

Wild church

Last year I started to think about what God might be leading me into
following my first year of retirement. I was encouraged by someone to think
about where my passion lay and to wait on God for leading. As I considered
this we had just finished the holiday club and I was thinking about all the
families we had reached. How could we continue to engage with these
families? That's my passion-to reach out to all those folk in the benefice who
cannot see the relevance of God or church but who are clearly searching.

This thought led me to look at Messy Church again and whilst browsing I
came across Wild Church. Although something I had never heard of I
discovered this is a growing expression of church here in Norfolk and across
the country. Further investigation, reading some of the literature and meeting
with someone who is already involved only deepened my interest and
excitement.

The bible is full of examples of God meeting with his people through
nature. It all started in a garden after all. From the beginning to the end of the
bible nature features heavily. Jesus himself mainly taught outside and
explained the kingdom of God through parables set in the natural world. This
has really captivated my interest and so I discussed it further with Adrian.

Following prayer and further consideration we have decided to go
ahead. The aim is to seek to meet with God through nature and the bible.
The outdoor service will, for now, be bimonthly. If you are interested in being
part of a team to lead or just can help with the set up on the day then please let
me know. email: pbtheo87@gmail.com Tel: 07914725591

This is not a service aimed only at children or families but at all ages.
The aim is to make it accessible to all. We will be using different outdoor
spaces, our first meeting in May was on The Common in Mulbarton, and our
July meeting in is in Hethel Churchyard.

Please do come along and if you want to know more about the theology
behind this venture do have a chat with me or just google Wild Church to
access the many resources available.

Thanks, Bev



TAKE A TOUR

You can now take a virtual tour of
Flordon Church and churchyard at
[https://flordonhistory.webnode.page/
virtual-church-tour/](https://flordonhistory.webnode.page/virtual-church-tour/)

Do take a look!

Jill



Ethical Christian #5

So this month's offering is driving into the car park of insurance!

Car insurance - this is personally a very relevant subject for me. Our recent correspondence from our provider, who we had been with for many years, told us our insurance would be rising from £315 to £640. I'm afraid customer loyalty was out the window, but it was also a great opportunity to look into ethical providers of car insurance, which I admit I hadn't done so far.



Hopefully, from what I've said before, you know that any look at ethics is not clear cut or straightforward. Even two sites I regularly use to guide me www.thegoodshoppingguide.com and www.ethicalconsumer.org don't always agree and have different criteria, Arghh! However, it gives you a starting point.

The Ethical Consumer (EC) is a more severe, exacting judge and no insurers scored more than 33/100 and so they have no 'green' (good) ones to recommend - just better than others or really bad! However, it did recognise that Aviva's global collaborations for systems change are sector-leading, which is encouraging.

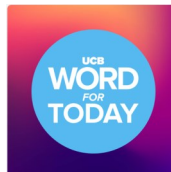
The Good Shopping Guide had a lot more green ones to recommend. Combining their results with EC's, here are some of the insurers better than their competitors in the ethical insurance game: **Aviva, Quote me Happy, Covea, Admiral, Hastings Direct** and at the bottom of the pile are Tesco, LV= and Zurich.

Obviously a lot more were looked at and if you want to view tables in detail: <https://thegoodshoppingguide.com/subject/ethical-insurance/> and ask me for access to Ethical Consumer's table (as you need to be subscribed - I'm happy to share my access)

Often buying ethical means a monetary sacrifice, but this time I ended up with a quote of £366 and much more ethical insurers than before - win/win. Very happy to talk person to person about who I went with, and discuss or explore anything else ethical!

Rachel

UCBs FREE Quarterly Daily Devotional Booklets are available at the back of each of our Churches, otherwise do telephone 01782 911 000 or e-mail ucb@ucb.co.uk to join their mailing list and receive your own copy direct to your door each season!



Mardle Musings...

A friend of mine had to cycle home from work down a dark country lane, going past the old churchyard. He was always nervous going past there at night with the trees over hanging the road and the moon shining through the branches and lighting the old grave stones. So when he got to that eerie part of the road he peddled faster, just to get past that place and get away from there.



Well, one dark and windy night, when he came to that place he pushed on his peddles harder, but instead of going faster he was slowing down. The harder he pushed on the peddles the slower he went. Just as if something or someone was holding him back. Till at last when he drew level with the churchyard gate he stopped altogether and fell off, right into the gateway. He was really scared and the cold sweat was running down him. He thought his end had come, he thought God was calling him. Until he looked down and saw that his coat tail had gotten caught in his back wheel, and that's what it was!

And I thought that's just like us! We get ourselves into a lot of scrapes, and we blame it on God. And it wasn't God's fault. If we took a closer, honest look at things we might just see it's something about us that's causing the trouble. And when we notice God will always help us to set things straight.

Maurice

Join 70k in May
and do it your way!



Thank you so much for your support

A **massive thank you** to everyone who has supported us by cheering us on and donating towards our 70K in May Challenge for Christian Aid.

At point of printing we have managed to run 65K between us, and £370s have been donated so far, so we are well on track to meet the 70k target.

Christian Aid unites fundraisers across the globe to help their work engaging with the effects and causes of poverty in South Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Their projects bring immediate relief to those in need and work for long term, sustainable solutions.

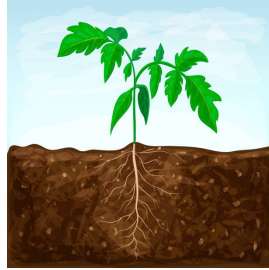
If you would like to donate there is still time, so do please speak to one of us.

Thank you, Sarah, Heather and Tracey

How to be a greener Christian #13

How to GARDEN the LOW CARBON way is a handy Royal Horticultural Society resource at this busy growing time. 20 short chapters from designing the low-carbon garden to paths, pavings and patios, and from weeding to managing soil to dealing with waste. As usual, you can source a second-hand copy from Abe Books.

I was woken up by “The soil you grow your plants in holds 83% of your garden’s carbon, sequestered in plant roots, fungi, bacteria, living and dead animals, and humus (decomposed plant matter).” How to boost? Stop digging – turning soil exposes carbon to the air; avoid treading on your soil – which compacts it and drives out the air; plant permanently – major on trees, shrubs and long-lived perennials; grow lots of plants (keep paving and buildings to a minimum); and keep the soil covered – bare topsoil is eroded by exposure to weather, taking its load of carbon with it. So my raised beds, which hardly need any digging, are good from a carbon perspective, but I need to explore green manures to protect the soil in winter.



At this time of year, pests and diseases are front and centre of many gardeners’ minds. The book has strategies to avoid the need for pesticides which “inflict pollution, climate change and the destruction of biodiversity.” Patrol regularly to catch infestations in their early stages (or to deal with slugs in the evening), use barriers, keep plants growing strongly, encourage natural predators, keep clean and tidy, grow resistant varieties and lastly “mix it up”. “Jumble up different kinds of plants and pests find it dreadfully confusing” (as opposed to monoculture rows). If you do have to use pesticides, try tomato leaf deterrent, beer slug traps, soapy water, milk, rhubarb water or pepper and garlic spray. Buy the book for the recipes!

And a recipe to enjoy yourself—100g yellow split peas provide 22g of protein, pretty good for £0.20! Cook them as per the packet. Meanwhile soften a roughly chopped onion in a little oil, add a teaspoon of cumin seeds, two of turmeric and ¼ of ground cardamom (or grind the seeds from 10 pods yourself). Cook for a minute or two; add 400g chopped tomatoes and simmer. Drain the peas once cooked; mix with the onion and tomato. Halve and thinly slice an aubergine; pan-cook in olive oil, or brush with oil and grill if you prefer. Stir into the split pea mix and serve with steamed rice. Yum.

Peter Nicholls, 20.5.24

Hethel Church News

On **Saturday 22 June**, our friend and bat expert **Jane Harris** from East Carleton is running another **bat evening** for us, meeting in church at **8pm**. Jane will talk, show slides and videos of bats and their conservation for about an hour. We'll have a refreshment break and then go out on foot into the neighbouring woods and countryside to see what's about. Well, more to hear than to see: Jane brings a number of bat detectors that make the supersonic echolocation calls of bats audible to us humans. Last time, she also had a sophisticated analyser that told her what sorts of bats were sounding off. This is a fund-raiser for the tower and bell fund and to make a gift to Jane for her time. Please book to come - numbers will be limited - at <https://bit.ly/hethelbats>. I'm suggesting £10 for adults and £5 for children, but there's an opportunity to pay what you can afford.



Of course June is the prime time for the churchyard's wildflowers - it's always a picture as Cowslips give way to Ox-eye Daises and then the beautiful Pyramidal Orchids, all mixed in with dots of red, purple and blue from the smaller plants. Make sure you come and sit awhile on the bench, or wander round the cut swathe looking for insects, listening for the rustle of larger creatures in the grass and birds in the surrounding woodland. If you're interested in starting a wildflower meadow, small or large, in your garden, Norfolk Wildlife Trust are encouraging this (<https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/meadowsappeal>) and suggesting that you import seed from meadowland somewhere else. When the churchyard is cut in September, you could take some of ours; just ask.

On **Sunday 7 July at 10am**, **Wild Church** comes to Hethel Churchyard. Bev Theobald has started this outdoor expression of church, celebrating God's creation and giving thanks for it in an informal, relaxed way. This is for all ages, not just children, so do come whichever decade of life you're in! I'm delighted that our wildlife guru Dr Anne Edwards BEM will be advising Bev on what to look out for.



Peter Nicholls

June/July 2024

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

June

Sun 2	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer Mulbarton Church: All Age Service <i>followed by Ice Cream Sunday at The Rectory</i>
Mon 3	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tues 4	2.00pm	Teapot Tuesday: Bracon Ash Village Hall
Wed 5	10.30am	Bracon Ash PCC
	2pm	Flordon Chit Chat: Flordon Church
Thur 6	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 9	8.30am 10am 6.30pm	Hethel Church: Communion Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Flordon Church: Evening Prayer
Mon 10	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 13	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	2.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid Week Communion
Sat 15	7.00pm	Mulbarton Community Choir Concert (see p 10)
Sun 16	9.00am 10am	Bracon Ash Church: Communion Mulbarton Church: Communion
Mon 17	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 20	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sat 22	8pm	Bat Evening at Hethel Church (see p5)
Sun 23	10.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover Harvest House: Together Meal Mulbarton Church: Together Service
Mon 24	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tue 25	2.00pm	Mulbarton Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 27	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	10.30am	Flordon: Mid-week Communion
Sun 30	10.00am	Mulbarton: Meditative Service

July

Mon 1	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tues 2	2.30pm	Teapot Tuesday: Bracon Ash Village Hall
Wed 3	10.30am	Bracon Ash PCC
	2.00pm	Flordon Chit Chat: Flordon Church
Thur 4	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 7	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer Hethel Church: Wild Church (see p3)
Mon 8	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 11	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 14	8.30pm 10.00am 6.30pm	Hethel Church: Communion Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Flordon Church: Evening Prayer
Mon 15	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 18	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	2.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid Week Service
Sun 21	9.00am 10.00am 10.30am -4.30pm	Bracon Ash Church: Communion Mulbarton Church: Communion Mulbarton Open Gardens (see p11)
Mardle Deadline—editor Chris Carter chrismarinacarter@gmail.com with subject line 'Mardle'		
Mon 22	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tue 23	2:00pm	Mulbarton Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 25	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 28	10.30am 2-5pm 6.00pm 7.00pm	Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover Hethel Cream Teas Harvest House: Together Meal Mulbarton Church: Together Service
Mon 29	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club