

Bring and Share Brunch and Prayer

Saturday 26th October: 10—11.30am
@ Harvest House

A chance to gather and pray together for the things coming up, the people on our hearts, and our life, work and witness as the Parish Church here in our group of villages.

Please let Sarah know if you can come.

And if you can bring something brunchy to share (croissants, fruit, pot of jam, crumpets etc) please let her know too so she can fill any gaps.

01508 571167 sarah@mulbchurch.org.uk



Coffee Morning at The Rectory



Saturday 16 November 10.30am– 12.30pm.

Come along to The Rectory for a warming winter drink, a tasty nibble to munch and a chance for a good natter.

(Sarah's Gifts and Cards will be available to peruse / purchase for those who would like, but they are aside, it would simply be great to have your company!) RSVP if you're able. Thanks.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral and Burial

23 Aug	Bracon Ash	Rosalind Cook
30 Aug	Mulbarton	Derek Seath

Funeral and Crematorium

16 Aug	Mulbarton	Robert (Bob) Hunt
18 Sept	Mulbarton	Felicity McIlwraith

Weddings

24 Aug	Hethel	Charlie McAllister & Saffron Browne
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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

October / November 2024

Mulbarton Benefice newsletter

FROM THE RECTORY

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

**Benefice Vision Meeting,
Hanover Lounge
7:30pm, Monday 14th October**

Thanks to all who have been in touch since my last article with ideas about getting together as a benefice, what to discuss and how to manage it. As ever, a diverse (but encouraging) set of views!!

We postponed for a variety of reasons. I hope many will be able to make the new date. After sharing news of what we have put into practice from last year, and giving feedback on what might be priority now, we will hear about challenges coming our way, and split into smaller groups, each focused on one of the parishes, in order to try to formulate some achievable aims for each parish for the coming year.

Adrian

VERGER

We are looking for someone to join our small team of Vergers to help prepare the church building for weddings and funerals and in particular to provide a warm welcome to all those attending these services.

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

We need someone to keep our Electoral Roll up to date. The Roll needs completely renewing next year, so we must appoint by February 2025, to allow time to do the renewal before the Annual Meetings.

If you'd like to find out more about either role please speak to:

Verger - Sarah Miller
sarahpmiller@googlemail.com
01508 571167

Electoral Roll Officer - Teresa Burrell
teresaburrell@btinternet.com
07964 844906
01508 570150



FOLLOWING JESUS
Sharing the journey

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



PCC Updates

Mulbarton—7 August; 4 September; next meeting 5 June

We agreed job descriptions for vergers and electoral roll officer, and are now seeking to recruit a bank of possible vergers for weddings and funerals, as well as a PCC ER officer, a key role ahead of the 6-yearly rebuilding of the list that is coming up next year. We agreed to make more use of the Google Workspace professional tools and storage, which we have available free to us as a charity, and have made progress on this with document storage, accounting and project management in particular. New tenant agreements were ratified by Birketts and signed by upstairs tenants, with five-year leases now attracting a steady income of £8,400 per year. This helps us, gives the tenants beautiful spaces to work from, and makes good use of the building to bless our communities. Win-win all round. We agreed a plan, in principle, for re-ordering the church, to include toilet and kitchen facilities, some de-pewing, re-flooring and repairs. This is now with the architect being prepared for pre-faculty advice. A new bike rack and bench are now in place in the churchyard, the bench in memory of Jack and Elsie Page. We have made further progress with Eco Church principles in a variety of ways. We applied for a grant to boost the Hardship Fund money, which has disbursed about £13,000 in recent years. Stephen McLeod was co-opted to the PCC in September, and is preparing to take on the role as treasurer. We have eventually got the faculty granted and advice required from the architect to be able to instruct the contractor to go ahead with installing new blinds on the three south facing windows. We continue to support Bev's new role as AWA, and all that she is doing with Holiday Clubs and Wild Church. The Bishop's office is processing the application and we anticipate being able to set a date for commissioning very soon. We also support Eve and her work with the youth, and their valiant efforts with this year's Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored bike ride.

Bracon Ash—9 September; next meeting 18 November

We discussed upcoming events, notable Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, including the harvest lunch at the Village Hall on 6th October, and Humphrey Berney's proposed fundraising concert on 6th December. We attended to necessary maintenance issues: the noticeboard, a churchyard bench and PAT testing. We continue to explore plans and funding for completing the necessary repairs and renovations, with the church architect.

Hethel—2 September; next meeting 12 November

We continue to apply for grants, with a view to raising sufficient funds to repair the bell tower and hear the church bell ring again after decades of silence. We adopted a maintenance place, and noted thanks to local volunteer work parties. We reviewed past events (bat walk and cream teas) and made plans for Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas season.

Flordon—10 September; next meeting 20 November

We had to postpone the planned completion of safeguarding training until November. We agreed for urgent work on the porch to be completed asap. We agreed arrangements for Harvest service and supper. We reviewed churchyard maintenance, including Parish Council grants and management strategies.

Part of the eco church approach is collaborating with the wider community, which was wonderfully put into practice with our local Rangers making the basis for our newly installed bug hotels in the churchyard and a dozen people, church members and community members, mowing in (a good old Norfolk word for joining in/helping out) to clear the newly establishing wildlife areas on a beautiful sunny Saturday. It is lovely to see so many likes on the post about it on the Community Noticeboard too. Thank you to all who helped in so many ways for this to happen. If you want to help put up bird boxes, which we ran out of time to do, let Heather know.



That's all for now, but using my new Norfolk phrase: Let's keep mow in (joining in, helping out) in any way we can to love this natural world of us and all its inhabitants.

Rachel Burchell

We are a fun, enthusiastic choir for any who love to sing.
We meet every **Thursday** in term time at Mulbarton Primary School
7.30—9.30pm and are always open to new members.

Join us for our **WINTER CONCERT**
Saturday 30th November -7pm Mulbarton Village Hall
Details of tickets will be advertised on our posters and social media.
For more information contact mulbartoncc@outlook.com



Eco Church Update

As you know Mulbarton Church has committed to be an Eco church, so each Mardle there will be a catch up of what has happened to help this, what is going to happen and how we can all be part of this process.

There is a small committee that meets, but anyone is welcome to come and join us. Contact Heather Wells for more information heather@mulbchurch.org.uk. Our focus is always to make small steps to longer, sustainable change. So we have concentrated our energy these few months on achieving something in each of the 5 areas Eco church looks at: Worship and Teaching; Lifestyle; Buildings; Community and Global Engagement and Land.

In consultation with Adrian, we have now also got a range of services throughout the year which will focus on creation and green issues, though sadly COVID put pay to our Autumn Equinox celebration. Next year... In the meantime, lots of Harvest services throughout the benefice will have been or will be coming after this Mardle is published. Note the Tearfund Big Quiz on 12th October too!

We are currently in the process of reviewing all the products we use in Harvest House to ensure they are as ethical and environmentally friendly as possible, and hopefully gradually spread that process to all areas of church life.

Our litter pick for Wild Church in September was a great opportunity to continue the wonderful work so many groups and individuals regularly do to keep our community - human, animal and land - clean and safe. We loved hearing too how church members also used it as a way to communicate with those they met about God's love for this creation too. We can all continue this love as we keep the immediate vicinity to where we live free from litter too.

SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER we are encouraging all church members to **walk, cycle or car share** to church as a small way to remind ourselves of the International Day of Climate Action on 24th October and our continuing commitment to lifestyles that limit the harm done to our planet and actively benefit it instead. Those who need to drive to church, please see who you could car share with or offer your car that day to pick people up. Those that cycle can use our newly erected cycle rack too!

Flordon Harvest Supper is almost fully booked as Mardle goes to print, but if you would like to join in the fun there, please contact Janet on 471070.



Bracon Ash Harvest lunch looks set to be special, as local chef Mason, cooks a special harvest soup, with toppings, oils, fresh bread, and autumn cake. Only £5 per head. No need to book, but helps to know numbers, so if you are planning to come, or have special dietary needs, please contact Adrian (contact details on back cover) or Heather on 578462.

Tearfund Big Quiz: 7pm, Sat 12th October, Harvest House—BOOK NOW!!



We gather donations for Norwich Foodbank, and money for Tearfund—to help those near and far. Hanover raised £332 last week to support Tearfund's "Transforming Communities" inspiring work. Please bring Foodbank donations to church on Sunday 13th Oct, and sign up for this year's quiz with Tim or Adrian.



The Real Advent Calendar

Bev has ordered a box of 18 of these at £4.95 each. They tell the story of Jesus' birth, with fair trade chocolates and this year will be supporting The Funzi and Bodo Trust, providing care for mums and babies in the poorest villages in Africa. To get your copy speak to or email Bev pbtheo87@gmail.com Thanks

Ethical Christian #7 Washing up liquid

Those of a certain generation will remember the advert 'Hands that do dishes, are as soft as your face with...', and be able to fill in the brand! What that brand didn't disclose was its history, and present practice, of using toxic chemicals, animal testing, lack of transparency and owned by a company which has been criticised for its unethical practices. It scored 0 in many of the Ethical Consumer's rating categories.

So what are we looking for in an ethical washing up liquid? (even if you have a dishwasher!) Three questions are a good starting point.

Is it a refill product? Cutting out unnecessary plastic is going to be a great starting point. Sadly, I know many used Reno's in Wymondham which is now closed, but The Green Grocers off Earlam Road does a range of refill washing up liquids, as well as Ernie's Zero Waste shop on Anglia Square. Other companies, such as Minimi has a closed loop system where you can send back pouches or containers to them and they will refill them and only recycle at end of life. All those listed below in **bold** do bulk buy or refill options, bar Sonnet.

Second, **Is it cruelty free?** Look for Leaping Bunny-certified companies and those with a fixed cut-off date after which no products will be tested on animals.

Lastly, **Is it organic?** Although only one washing up liquid is certified organic (Greenscents); Sonnet and Sodasan contain organic ingredients.

This gives you a framework to start with. Unfortunately, not all liquids that promote green credentials are very ethical. Those scoring high on the ethics stakes (in descending order) and in the green part of the Ethical Consumer chart are; **Fill and SESI; Greenscents; Minimi; Faith in Nature; Bio-D; Smol; Sonnet; Ecoleaf and Sodasan.** (those promoting green credentials but scoring very low orange or red in the chart are Ecozone and Ecover - remember this can often be because of the parent company that owns such brands, so avoid them if you can).

Hopefully that will help a bit to choose a washing up liquid that is more about how it affects the environment, animals and those who produce it, rather than its cosmetic advantages for our hands, because we can always wear gloves (fairly traded, environmentally friendly ones, of course!)

Rachel Burchell



mile) plus another £1500 in vehicle tax, that's not a bad financial proposition if you have the capital.

A recipe? You could try Cheesy Pleaser Pie or Cheering Chickpea Curry from the Spar shop's free *Autumn* booklet or take your choice from a BBC theme of the moment at https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/collections/veggie_family_favourites. The clue's in the link! As ever, think what's seasonal - tomatoes, aubergines, peppers, courgettes, for example, all peak at this time of year.

Peter Nicholls, 22.9.24

Mardle Musings...

A while back I had a friend who used to work at the electro-motors firm in Norwich. They had a contract with the Lowestoft fishing fleet to provide new electric motors to replace the old steam winches they had on the boats to haul the nets in. They fitted them alright but the fishermen complained that they weren't working as well as the old steam winches were. Well, the firm couldn't understand that, so they sent my friend down to check them out. He couldn't find anything wrong with them. So he went out on the boats with the fishermen, so they could show him what they meant, and when he watched he could see the trouble.



You see the steam winch had steam belching, pistons banging, wheels whirring, noises and clatter, all impressively doing the job. Whereas the electric motor quietly hummed as it hauled in the nets. One looked like it was working, putting a lot of its energy into the noise and hubbub, whereas the other quietly got on with the job using all its energy that way.

I wonder what sort of Christian we are, one that generates a lot of noise and clatter and hubbub, or one that quietly gets on with the 'job', loving God and loving others.

Maurice

A quote to ponder
"Acquire the Spirit of *Peace* and a *thousand* souls *around* you will be saved." *St. Seraphim* of Sarov 1754—1833
(editor's addition)

How to be a greener Christian #15

BBC News recently featured Somalia, and how “Climate change is turbo-charging [the country’s] problems” ([bit.ly/bbcsomalia](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-60888888)). Stories like this underline how my climate actions can and do have global consequences and how neighbours – whom Jesus says I am to love and care for as much as I care for myself – are all over the world. This is why the World Council of Churches proclaim this the Season of Creation, starting on September 1st, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ending October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. It also points up the importance of an International Day of Climate Action on 24 October each year.



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

In amongst our activism, let us not neglect to pray for the planet and its leaders, personally (do you?) and together – look out for themed services in our churches in the coming weeks – and remember to cycle or walk to church on October 20th!

Fess up time: we’ve changed our car. Our lovely red Nissan Leaf had done 55000 miles and just started to drop range a bit. And there were some good autumn deals. How do Christians make decisions in the area of money – which Jesus had far, far more to say about than many other things? Simply put, I see it as about stewardship. What you have, use well, use in the service of God and others (Mathew 6.24). For me, Colossians 3.15 is also important: “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”. “Rule” here is literally “arbitrate” or “be umpire”. So I hold a big decision in open hands before God for days or even weeks and see whether God gives me peace about it “in my heart”.

But what about reduce, reuse, recycle?! I figured that the 7½-year-old Leaf traded in would reappear on the market for about £5000, opening up EV ownership to someone else. Given that I reckon we’ve saved £5000 in energy costs (overnight charging per mile cf diesel costs per

Hethel Church News

Remembering Loved Ones

Everyone has lost a loved one; everyone. Recently or long ago, it can be good to remember them and to give thanks before God. We read out a list of names, sing (or just listen to) some relevant hymns, listen to messages of hope from the Bible teased out by Rector Adrian and everyone (who wants to) lights a candle in memoriam. There's peace and sometimes tears – it doesn't matter.

Or perhaps you know someone who is grieving and might value this opportunity. Or who years ago has lost someone whom they revere and would love a chance to celebrate their life again. Do tell them – or, even better, bring them. It's **3pm on Sunday 3 November at Hethel Church**. And there's always tea and home-made cake afterwards (our gift to all who come).



Peter Nicholls

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 **2 - 4 pm**

Join us for good company, tea and cake.



Oct 22nd, Nov 26th, Dec 10th special (with a touch of Christmas)
(Voluntary donation £2 per session)

Transport to and from the meetings can be offered.

Just speak to Tracey Salisbury 07708 228998, Sue Mellows 07936 703124 , or Heather Wells 01508 578267 for more information

Oct/ Nov 2024

Please Check Church Website for any changes nearer the time

October

Tues 1	2pm	Teapot Tuesday: Bracon Ash Village Hall
Wed 5	2pm	Flordon Chit Chat: Flordon Church
Thur 3	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sat 5	7pm	Flordon Harvest Supper (see p 3)
Sun 6	10am	Mulbarton Church: Youth Led All Age Service
	11am	Bracon Ash Church: Harvest Service
	12 noon	Harvest Lunch at Bracon Ash Village Hall (p 3)
Mon 7	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 10	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	2.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid Week Service
Sat 12	7pm	Tearfund Big Quiz at Harvest House (see p 3)
Sun 13	8.30am	Hethel Church: Communion
	10am	Mulbarton Church: Harvest Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Flordon Church: Evening Prayer
Mon 14	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
	7.30pm	Benefice Meeting (Hanover Gardens Lounge (p1)
Thur 17	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 20	9.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Communion
	10am	Mulbarton Church: Communion (Climate Action Day—Cycle or walk to church)
Mon 21	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tue 22	2pm	Mulbarton Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 24	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	10.30am	Flordon: Mid-week Benefice Communion
Sat 26	10am	Bring & Share Brunch and Prayer at HHouse(p12)
Sun 27	10.30am	Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover
		Steve Adcock Farewell Celebration (p 9)
	11 & 12	Mulbarton Church: Baptism services
	6pm	Harvest House: Together Meal
	7pm	Mulbarton Church: Together Service

Mon 28	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 31	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	From 6pm	Church open to light a candle, and/or meet vicar

November

Sun 3	9am	Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer
	10am	Wild Church (details to be confirmed)
	3pm	Hethel Church: Remembering Loved Ones (p5)
Mon 4	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tues 5	2.30pm	Teapot Tuesday: Bracon Ash Village Hall
Wed 6	2pm	Flordon Chit Chat: Flordon Church
Thur 7	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 10	8.30pm	Hethel Church: Communion
	10am	Mulbarton Church: Remembrance Service
	10.30am	Flordon Church: Remembrance Service
	10:45am	Bracon Ash: Outdoor Remembrance Service
Mon 11	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 14	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	2.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid Week Service
Sat 16	10.30am	Coffee Morning at The Rectory (p 11)
Sun 17	9am	Bracon Ash Church: Communion
	10am	Mulbarton Church: Communion
Mardle Deadline—editor Chris Carter chrismarinacarter@gmail.com with subject line 'Mardle'		
Mon 18	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 21	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 24	10.30am	Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover
	6pm	Harvest House: Together Meal
	7pm	Mulbarton Church: Together Service
Mon 25	10am-2pm	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club
Tue 26	2pm	Mulbarton Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club
Thur 28	9.15am	Coffee & Prayer at Harvest House
	10.30am	Flordon: Mid-week Communion
Sat 30	7pm	Mulbarton Community Choir Winter Concert (p11)