

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral and Cremation

3 Feb Earlham Jack Kemp

Funeral and burial

6 Feb Mulbarton Ian Long
17 March Mulbarton Roy Frost

Burial of ashes

26 Feb Mulbarton Brian Burgess

(continued from page 11)

HSBC 2, Barclays 0, Chase 0 and First Direct 2 banks are massive financiers of fossil fuels and have been linked to multiple human rights abuses. Lloyds, Halifax, Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds 6, Halifax 30, Bank of Scotland 6), NatWest Group (NatWest 2, RBS, Coutts 2, Ulster Bank 2) and Santander (Santander 2, Cater Allen 2) have also been criticised for multiple unethical investments.

I changed my bank last year, after ethical research, and found it so easy. Government regulation has made it so: <https://www.currentaccountswitch.co.uk/>
So this Lent, and beyond, let's think how we can be ethical with how we look after the money we have.

'Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty'

Proverbs 22:16



Rachel Burchell

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This month's editor: Chris Carter

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

MARDLE

APRIL / MAY 2025

Mulbarton Benefice newsletter



FOLLOWING JESUS

Sharing the journey

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

FROM THE RECTORY

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



Lent.

A time to carve out...

...SPACE...

Not to fill it with words.

To be. To reflect. To change. To notice. To navigate. To pray.

As we share the Lenten journey, however you are marking the season, as we engage in all that is happening, and all that is contained in these pages, my prayer is that we will have moments of encounter with the Living God, and also in this season find ways to carve out the space we need.

Adrian

PCC Updates

Mulbarton—12 Feb & 12 Mar; next meeting 9 Apr 2025

Denis Tuttle has agreed to do one more for us (he has since agreed to!). We noted thanks for various practical jobs that have been completed. The major reordering project is pending a site visit by DAC, scheduled end of March. We noted Jill Wright's upcoming retirement, and discussed how best to honour her many years of faithful service in the parish. We continue to make progress with safeguarding compliance, environment policy and equality policy, noting where further explorations and actions are required. We are in process of reviewing our spending priorities in order to manage the budgeted shortfall. This year the projected shortfall is only £5,500, which is considerably less than £12,500 last year, for which we give thanks. Harvest House continues to be well used, and has benefited from a professional steam clean of carpets and another new table to serve growing groups of hirers.

Bracon Ash—Next meeting 1 May 2025

PCC did not meet in February or March. We continue to rally in support of our churchwarden, detained in Australia, and have been keeping Alf and Heather in our prayers. Grant applications and plans for major works continue to roll.

Hethel—24 Feb; next meeting 28 April

We passed the milestone of raising enough to fully fund the Tower and Bell restoration project—although work has paused until 1st April because we found bats hibernating. We discussed churchyard maintenance, safeguarding and equality policy, as well as the Prayers of Love and Faith—but no decisions to make, or actions outstanding, at this time. We continue to give thanks for well-supported events and services and the oasis of welcome offered to visitors.

Flordon—Next meeting 29 Apr 2025

PCC did not meet in February or March.

APCMs 2025

	<u>Mulbarton</u>	<u>Flordon</u>	<u>Bracon Ash</u>	<u>Hethel</u>
APCM:	Wed, 28 May	Wed, 21 May	Thu, 22 May	Tue, 20 May
ER Officer:	Christine Melling	Janet Negal	Alice Lince	Anne Howlett

This year we rebuild electoral rolls from scratch. Notices are now going up in churches to invite regular worshipers and parishioners who are members of the Church of England to complete and return application forms by **Monday 5th May**.

Collect a paper form from the back of a Church, or from your Electoral Roll Officer, to sign and return. Alternatively, under new provision you can email a PDF from the email address used in the form, so please look out for that coming to your email or please get in touch with Adrian or your ER Officer to request. If emailing, please send completed forms to er@mulbchurch.org.uk, with your parish in the subject line.

Add 400g chopped tomatoes, a 400g tin of chickpeas and 300ml vegetable stock. Simmer for 20 minutes, shred two large handfuls of spinach, wilt in then serve with crusty bread.



Peter Nicholls, 17.03.25

Ethical Christian #10 BANKING: Current Accounts

I don't know about you, but I have signed up to the Carbon Fast for Lent by Climate Stewards. One of their challenges was to see if your bank invested in fossil fuels, and it reminded me how choosing an ethical bank account is one of the most ethically productive things we can do. The Bible is clear we are not to love money, but be generous and good stewards of it. If we have a heart to provide for those in need; protect our planet; fight injustice but our money is with organizations that are undoing that, then we need to think seriously how we can change that dissonance.

So what is 'ethical banking'? The Ethical Consumer uses these criteria:

doesn't invest your money in things like fossil fuels, weapons, gambling, tobacco and other unethical industries - ensuring its policies and advertising match its practice
does pay its fair share of tax
does invest your money in positive areas, such as renewable energy

For this article, I'll provide information for current accounts but feel free, as always, to discuss savings accounts or any other issues with me. This is such a broad stroke article and I have much more information if anyone is ever interested to know more about their bank.

As of 2022, Triodos at the moment is the top scorer with 96, though it does charge £3 a month to maintain its current account. However, Coop/ Smile and Nationwide are non charging alternatives, who also provide credit cards, with scores of 74 and 70 respectively. *(As some of these banks have been acquisitioned by other companies, their scores will be re examined next month, but as pre-acquisition practices likely to be sustained for short term these scores are still best indicators at present)*

continued overleaf

How to be a greener Christian #18

Biodiversity loss is of growing concern, as Bishop Graham repeatedly advises, but Roz Savage MP's Climate and Nature Bill is unlikely to proceed to Second Reading. Bad news or good? Probably good because Minister for Nature Mary Creagh MP has assured that "[governmental] next steps would include 'binding commitments' to advance the bill's objectives" while Secretary Ed Miliband MP promised "to set to work on the 'spirit and substance' of the bill—including for legislation"—in order to 'make a meaningful difference' for climate and nature". Pray these good folk deliver on their promises.

Anything on that theme that we can take into the rest of **Lent**? What about **Salisbury Diocese's Get outside for Lent booklet?**

Six things to do and a short liturgy on each of six different themes:
<https://bit.ly/lentoutside>.

What else could we pray or do to reflect on the season?

Laudato Si' was written by Pope Francis in 2015. It "**remains a profound invitation to everyone on the planet to care for our common home**" to quote the CAFOD site from where it can be downloaded (<https://bit.ly/cafodsi>).

Read it as a devotional activity during April, a little at a time?

Inevitably I spend time with 'older' people who may have more time, but I've been surprised recently by the amount of story-sharing that involved flying. "**Just back from Malaga for a few days' break**" etc. So I was interested to discover a House of Commons Library Research Briefing *Aviation and Climate Change*, which notes that passengers through UK airports increased from 101m. in 1990 to 297m. in 2019. The same document observes that 16% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions will be from aviation by 2035 (7% in 2022), despite efficiencies and economies.

We will go by train to Perpignan in September but could fly from Stansted for less than 40% of the price. Doesn't feel right to me!

For tea next week, Nigel Slater's chickpea soup-stew. Soften a chopped onion in a little oil. Add two finely sliced garlic cloves, half a chopped red chilli, two teaspoons of garam masala and cook for a couple of minutes.



MULBARTON GROUP OF CHURCHES

HOLY WEEK 2025

www.mulbchurch.org.uk

April 14 | Fig Monday

**11 CATHEDRAL - BLESSING OILS
& RENEWING VOWS
6 PILGRIM CROSS, OXFORD LEG**

April 16 | Spy Wednesday

**ALL DAY HOLIDAY CLUB,
MULBARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

April 17 | Maundy Thursday

**9:15 HARVEST HOUSE, PRAYERS
14:30 HANOVER COMMUNION**

April 18 | Good Friday

**10 MULBARTON VILLAGE SIGN -
"STATIONS OF THE CROSS",
A GUIDED DEVOTIONAL
12 HARVEST HOUSE, HOT X BUNS
2 HETHEL, MEDITATIVE HOUR**

April 20 | Easter Sunday

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



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Wild church—4th May 10-11am

On the common opposite the church.
Join us for a celebration of the animals we enjoy.

Feel free to bring your pet along or a photo or draw a picture of them to show us.

All welcome even if you don't have a pet!

Bring along something to sit on if possible

Refreshments will be provided



Please do remember to bring a packet, tin or jar to the **Community Pantry in Mulbarton Church Porch** as you pass by if you can.

Items donated are making a big difference to those living through difficult times. It's a little way we can love our neighbours here in Mulbarton.

Thank you, Sarah Miller

Music and Faith: Thoughts from a Yommite

(Yommy is Mulbarton's Youth Group)

As a Christian teenager, music is a large aspect of my life, and finding God in music is as comforting as it is novel. Adrienne Lenker is one of my favourite artists of all time - her music is not inherently Christian, but I find that's the beauty of it: God is Everywhere, in the things that are Real, and can be expressed by Anyone.

One song in particular that has stood out to me over the past couple months is Candleflame from her Bright Future album; I won't bore you with an entire lyrical analysis but I do wholly recommend giving it a listen. The song is mysterious, it's short and simple and the lyrics don't have an obvious meaning. It holds possibly one of my favourite song verses of all time: "I see you pray, I want to too // I one-two-one-two-four // four-two-five-six bedrooms // so everyone can close a door."

I have no idea what this string of numbers means, and I think, in a way, that sums my personal relationship with God and my faith - It's mysterious and it's a bit weird, but I entirely trust that it has meaning and it is beautiful. I wanted to share this because I hope this song and my thoughts can provoke someone else to have some new and interesting thoughts, as is the joy of sharing music and faith.

Naomi Miller

Eco Church

It is lovely we have our bird boxes up as part of Wild Church's bird service in February. Do look out to see if they are being used. Thanks to Rupert and all those others that made it possible. Just the owl box to find a home for now.



Hope you saw the post about **Global Recycling Day**, 18th March, on Mulbarton Church Family Facebook page with info on local initiatives that help us reduce some of the waste we produce, especially important with the fact only 9% of recyclable plastic actually gets recycled!

Highlights: Val Keeler in Wreningham collects a lot of items as part of the Terracycle that ensures they are recycled properly. Check out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/578245996276698> for what she collects and other great recycling info. Alice Lince collects used stamps for Vision Norfolk; Boots (Chapelfield) and Superdrug Pharmacies recycle blister packs. Paid recycling but ensuring it definitely gets recycled: <https://zerowastebag.co.uk/>



And ending on such a lovely good news story that Jill Wright shared with me about a boy, nicknamed 'Sweet Tub Teddy' who saved more than 2,500 tubs through the Tub2Pub scheme to make outdoor furniture. Arriving at school on Thursday, he was surprised to find the "buddy bench" in the playground. "Everyone can make a difference, it doesn't matter how small you are," said Teddy, as the bench was unveiled. Amen, Teddy. Read the story in full here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c33744nxpdro>

Rachel Burchell

Easter Holiday Club—16th April in the local school hall

Please pray for us all as we present the Easter story to the children

Pray for the children and their parents as they hear the good news of Jesus death and resurrection.

Thanks, *Bev and the Team*

Benefice Bring and Share Brunch and Prayer Saturday May 10th 10—11.30am @ Harvest House

Join us for our next Brunch and Prayer, a chance to gather and pray together for the things coming up, the people on our hearts, and our life, work and witness across the Benefice. Please let Sarah know if you can bring something brunchy to share (croissants, fruit, pot of jam, crumpets etc) so she can then buy to fill any gaps. Thank you.



01508 571167 sarah@mulbchurch.org.uk

Mardle Musings

Oh, to have some quiet ...
Noise! Noise! Everywhere .. Radio, TV, people's headphones leaking tinny sounds, people talking.
How can we get some quiet?
You can go into the countryside to get some quiet, but even then there is some noise interrupting our thoughts.
Even when I pray, my thoughts are interrupted by simply trying to find the right words!
Someone said that when we are done praying, but just sitting quietly, that is when we are holding hands with God.



Maurice Lince

Psalm 131 A Song of Ascents. Of David

*My heart is not proud, LORD,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
But I have calmed and quieted myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.*

*Israel, put your hope in the LORD
both now and forevermore.*

News from Hethel Church



The churchyard is springing into life: snowdrops have come and gone but we're enjoying the hundreds of little wild daffodils now. Come anytime in the next few months to enjoy wherever we are in the slowly changing show.

We're expecting the **builders to start in the tower** on All Fools Day (!). If this acts as an alarm clock for hibernating bats, that's OK because there's insect food for them if they start flying. Will there be tea and toasted teacakes on 13 April? Probably, though the toilet may be off limits.

After that it's the **Good Friday** service at **2pm**, which has its own fanbase of those who value a meditative service "at the foot of the cross" to reflect on Jesus' last hour as a human being. Hethel's addiction to hospitality means hot cross buns at King John's Thorn afterwards.

Finally we go **Beating the Bounds on Sunday 25 May**, 2.30 from the church. This is a pleasant two-hour stroll embracing part of the boundary of the parish, stopping in different places to pray for industry, commerce, local government, community activities and facilities and so on. Two legs or four, you're welcome, tea, cake and water bowls available afterwards.

Peter Nicholls

Jess and Anne Mary have moved.

They have asked us to publicise their change of address and phone numbers. You will now find them here—
11 Ash Close, Woodbridge, IP12 4BP

And can contact them -
Jess 07410 607660 Anne Mary 07486 389556
jamstubenbord@gmail.com stubenbordam@gmail.com

Please check church website for information and changes nearer the time

April

Tue 1	2.30pm	Bracon Ash VH: Teapot Tuesday
Wed 2	2.00pm	Flordon: Chit Chat
Thur 3	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Sun 6	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash: Morning Prayer Mulbarton: All Age Service
Mon 7	10.00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Wed 9	7.30pm	Mulbarton PCC
Thur 10	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Palm Sunday		
Sun 13	8.30am 10.00am	Hethel: Holy Communion Mulbarton: All Age
Mon 14	10.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub Norwich Cathedral: Chrism Service Pilgrim Walkers hosted at Harvest House
Wed 16	All Day	Open the Book Easter Club at Mulbarton Primary
Thur 17	2.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 18	10.00am	“Stations of the Cross” guided devotion, meeting at Mulbarton Village Sign, followed by hot cross buns in HH at 12noon.
	2.00pm	Hethel Church: Meditation Hour
	4.00pm	Bracon Ash: Baptism
Easter Sunday		
Sun 20	9.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Bracon Ash: Easter Communion Mulbarton: Easter All Age Communion Flordon: Easter Praise
Tue 22	2.00pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Mardlers
Thur 20	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Sun 27	10.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	Hanover Gardens: Church@Hanover Together Meal at Harvest House Mulbarton: Together Night Prayers
Mon 28	10.00am 7.30pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub Hethel PCC
Tue 29	2.30pm	Flordon PCC

May

Thur 1	9.15am 2.30pm	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Bracon Ash PCC
Sun 4	9.00am 10.00am 12noon	Bracon Ash: Morning Prayer Mulbarton: Wild Church Mulbarton: Baptism
Mon 5	10.00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Tue 6	2.30pm	Bracon Ash VH: Teapot Tuesday
Wed 7	2.00pm	Flordon: Chit Chat
Thur 8	9.15am 2.30pm	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Hanover Gardens: Midweek Church @ Hanover
Sat 10	10.00am	Brunch and Prayer at Harvest House
Sun 11	8.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Hethel: Holy Communion Mulbarton: Morning Worship Flordon: Evening Prayer
Mon 12	10.00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Tue 13	7.30pm	Flordon Community Trust AGM
Thur 15	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Mardle Deadline—articles to chrismarinacarter@gmail.com		
Sun 18	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash: Holy Communion Mulbarton: Morning Worship
Mon 19	10.00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Tue 20	7.00pm	Hethel APCM, All Saints Church
Wed 21	7.30pm	Flordon APCM, St Michael’s Church
Thur 22	9.15am 10.30am 2.00pm	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Flordon: Benefice Communion Bracon Ash APCM, St Nicholas’ Church
Sun 25	10.30am 2.30pm 6.00pm 7.00pm	Hanover Gardens: Church@Hanover Hethel: Beating the Bounds Together Meal at Harvest House Mulbarton: Together Night Prayers
Tue 27	2.00pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Mardlers
Wed 28	7.30pm	Mulbarton APCM, Harvest House
Thur 29	9.15am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer