

MARDLE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

Mulbarton Benefice
Newsletter



FOLLOWING JESUS
Sharing the journey

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

Interregnum update

With Adrian leaving us at the end of March after twelve years as Rector of Mulbarton Benefice (Mulbarton, Bracon Ash, Hethel and Flordon) we are now in what is called an “**interregnum**”- which just means “*between Rectors*”. In the meantime, our regular pattern of church services continues, with the kind assistance of local ministers in our network.

Representatives of the Parochial Church Councils [PCCs] and Churchwardens of each of the four Parishes met with Bishop Ian Bishop at Harvest House on Thursday 28 May 2026, to formally start the process of seeking a new incumbent [Rector]. Bishop Ian provided helpful modern guidelines on how to describe who we are, and who we are looking for. Bishop Ian thought the vacancy was attractive for a candidate.

The description of where we are (geography, history), who we are (as churches and communities) and what we are looking for in a new Rector, are formally captured in a document called **The Parish Profile**. Each of the parishes are currently updating their Parish Profiles.

In mid-August, all the PCCs of the Benefice will meet with Bishop Ian to write a **Benefice Profile**. Following that, the Diocese will advertise the vacancy. Bishop Ian hoped that we would possibly have someone in post by Easter 2027.

based on letter by **Trevor Hutley**

A New Face in Mulbarton Church Office.

I, Julie Wilkins, have taken over from Sarah Miller as Mulbarton Church's part-time Administration Assistant. I started just after the last Mardle went to press at the beginning of June. I am sticking to similar office hours as Sarah. You will find me in the office on Tuesdays 9am to 12:30pm and Thursdays 10am to 1:30pm. I also do some work from home. I will be familiar to many of you, but to those I am not ...



I have lived in Mulbarton since 2002. I started going to Mulbarton Church in 1997. I am married to Rupert, with two grown-up children David and Rachel, still at home and now aged 26 and 24 respectively, and an aged and needy long-haired cat, called imaginatively Fluffy. I previously taught High School Maths, but for a long time now I have been working on turning my hobby of family history into a part-time job. I enjoy gardening, watercolours and getting lost in historical fiction.

Please bear with me as I take over the evolving list of roles and jobs within my job description. These include:

- Harvest House booking secretary
- Harvest House supplies procurer
- Service sheet and other material for services printer
- Community Pantry organiser
- Mulbarton and the greater benefice service list poster maker
- Super Rota organiser
- Writer and sender of birthday and baptism anniversary cards for those that have been baptised
- Editor of every other Mardle (*this edition is my first!*)
- Creator and sender of Mailchimp group emails throughout the benefice
- Updater and producer of the Internal Directory.
- Producer of publicity via posters and/or Facebook

- Eventually the font of all knowledge of all things “church” here, or can at least point you in the right direction.

Now with nearly two months under my belt things are becoming more familiar. I am enjoying my work. It has been great renewing old friendships and making new ones.

During office hours, I can be contacted on the Harvest House number or feel free to pop your head round the door. At any time, the best way to contact me is by my email admin@mulbchurch.org.uk.

Julie Wilkins

BRACON ASH CHURCH REPAIRS AND SERVICE CHANGES

Bracon Ash Church is currently closed because of repairs to the South Nave wall. Until it reopens, we are grateful to Hethel Church for allowing us to hold our services there. The date for completion of the work is not known at present so please check on notice boards and the Mulbarton Benefice website for details of when we are returning home again.



Please remember that services for Bracon Ash and Hethel are being held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays only. We look forward to welcoming you then.

Alice Lince



IT'S TIME FOR HETHEL CREAM TEAS!

Welcome to Hethel for a special Cream Tea on any or all of the Sundays in August. Teas will be served from 2pm to 5pm and we look forward to seeing you there!

Alice Lince

A SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Over recent years there have been sad stories of safeguarding failures in the Anglican Church. In response the Archbishop's Council commissioned an independent safeguarding audit programme. From 2023 to 2028 Auditors from the INEQE Safeguarding Group are collecting evidence across the Church. In late 2026 and early 2027 they will be reviewing the situation in the Norwich Diocese.

Their purpose is to audit progress in good safeguarding practices in the Diocese and although individual parishes will not be assessed, details of their compliance with these safeguarding practices will be considered as part of the general situation across Norfolk and Waveney.

We would like to thank all PCCs and church members in the Mulbarton Benefice who are taking time and trouble to encourage good safeguarding standards and completing the required training.

Lynne Lambert Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mulbarton

Janet Negal Parish Safeguarding Officer, Flordon

Alice Lince Parish Safeguarding Officer, Bracon Ash and Hethel

Alice Lince

Sam and Hannah priested



On Sunday 5th July, we were very proud to witness the priesting of our son, Sam Theobald, and his wife, Hannah, in Selby Cathedral.

It was a very moving service and now means they can take on the full duties of a priest.

They continue to train, live and serve in the Diocese of York.

Patrick & Bev Theobald



"Non-stop prayer in every nation on earth"

From 6th -13th September the 24-7 Prayer Movement are inviting the global church to pray day and night in every nation on earth.

They are sensing God's invitation to unite together to lift up the name of Jesus. The theme for this year is "at the name of Jesus" and is based on the scripture in Philippians 2:9-11.

The vision is that as we pray together, acknowledging Jesus is Lord over all of the earth, we will encounter the beauty and power of God to carry Jesus into the places we find ourselves and ultimately our nations.

I would like to encourage us as a church to participate in this event by meeting together to pray for an hour each day of that week. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please consider setting aside some time each day to pray.

My current thought is that we will meet in Mulbarton church each evening 7.30pm-8.30pm, but I will confirm this via the church email and/or website.

My understanding is that the *Lectio 365* app will have related devotional content for each day of the global week of prayer.

Patrick Theobald

Update on Tabletop and Craft Sale at St Michaels, Flordon

May 16th seems a long time ago now, however I would just like to update everyone on the success of the Flordon Tabletop and Craftwork Sale.

We had a lovely day, with both visitors and stallholders commenting on the lovely friendly atmosphere. Some were first timers to Flordon Church and we hope their positive experience will encourage them to return for future events. There was certainly a good variety of goods on sale - something for everyone young and old.

In total we raised **£405.40** on the day for Flordon Church funds!

We hope to hold more events of this nature in the future.

Thank you to everyone who supported us 😊

*Best wishes, **Karen Greenacre***



I completed the *Bishop's Certificate in Christian Learning*, which began in September 2025 and finished in May 2026.



I approached it with some trepidation since it is years since I did any real academic study but I need not have worried. There were about 30 of us. We were not expected to write essays or do exams but to take personal notes and some private study/research. That was a relief because of my dyslexia.

The course consisted of five units, each lasting about a month. Each one starts with us all meeting at a room in the Cathedral for a talk by the specialist followed by four Zoom meetings of about one and a half hours each. These included breakout times and a pause for coffee.

The subjects were:

1. Inhabiting the New Testament.
2. Exploring the Old Testament.
3. Praying.
4. Shaping the Christian Life.
5. Sharing in God's Mission.

The level of teaching was not overwhelming. Those on the course were simply learning more of the Christian Life, as I was, but our group included LLM's and one person who was applying to join the ministry.

The next course starts on Saturday, 26 September 2026. Check out the Cathedral website, at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/mission-and-ministry/vocations/the-bishops-certificate-in-christian-learning/>. The whole cost is £125, but 10% when booking all five sessions together. Well worth it!

Maurice Lince

Deadline for the next Mardle

Sunday, 20th September

Please send all articles to Chris Carter, via

chrismarinacarter@gmail.com

AUGUST

Sun 2	9:00am	Bracon Ash or Hethel Church: Morning Prayer
	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: All Age Service
	2:00pm	Hethel Church: Cream Teas
Mon 3	10.00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Thu 6	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
	2:30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid-week Communion
Sun 9	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship
	2:00pm	Hethel Church: Cream Teas
	<i>Note: No Evening Prayer at Flordon in August</i>	
Mon 10	10:00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Thu 13	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Sun 16	9:00am	Hethel Church: Holy Communion
	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion
	2:00pm	Hethel Church: Cream Teas
Mon 17	10:00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Thu 20	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
	10:30am	Flordon Church: Holy Communion
Sun 23	10:30am	Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover
	2:00pm	Hethel Church: Cream Teas
	6:00pm	Harvest House: Together Meal
	7:00pm	Mulbarton Church: Together Service
Mon 24	10:00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub
Tue 25	2:00pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Mardlers
Thu 27	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Sun 30	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: Meditative Service
Mon 31	Note: No Community Hub as Bank Holiday	

SEPTEMBER			
Thu 3	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer	
Sun 6	9:00am	Bracon Ash or Hethel Church: Morning Prayer	24/7 Global Week of Prayer
	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: All Age Service	
	2:00pm	Hethel Churchyard: Grass-cutting	
Mon 7	10.00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub	
Thu 10	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer	
	2:30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid-week Service	
Sun 13	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship	
	2:00pm	Hethel Churchyard: Grass-cutting	
	6:30pm	Flordon Church: Evening Prayer	
Mon 14	10:00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub	
Tue 15	7:30pm	Jubilee Room, Mulbarton Village Hall: Recycling Evening	
Thu 17	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer	
Sun 20	9:00am	Hethel Church: Holy Communion	
	10:00am	Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion	
	DEADLINE for October/November Mardle		
Mon 21	10:00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub	
Tue 22	2:00pm	Mulbarton Social Club: Mardlers	
Thu 24	9:00am	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer	
Sun 27	10:30am	Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover	
	6:00pm	Harvest House: Together Meal	
	7:00pm	Mulbarton Church: Together Service	
Mon 28	10:00am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub	

24/7 Global Week of Prayer

Please check all dates on our notice boards, website and regular emails for up-to-date information. If unsure contact one of your PCC members.

RECYCLE IT RIGHT!

With food waste collection due to start soon, the Eco Church Team has co-operated with the Parish and District Councils to arrange a RECYCLING PRESENTATION by



the South Norfolk Recycling team for people in Mulbarton and surrounding villages. It will give an opportunity to ask questions and share information on other recycling opportunities*.

RECYCLING PRESENTATION

TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

7:30pm

In the JUBILEE ROOM of
Mulbarton Village Hall

**FREE event. Bring your own re-usable
mug for refreshments!**



This is the church's opportunity to meet villagers and encourage better recycling, so PLEASE BOOK THE DATE AND COME ALONG.

Help with setting up, clearing away and offering refreshments needed ... **further information from Heather Wells or Jill Wright.**

* DID YOU NOW?



You can recycle empty medication 'blister packs' at **Boots** or **Superdrug** in Norwich. Boots even offer reward points, too!

WE DID IT!!

Mulbarton Church gained the **BRONZE ECOCHURCH AWARD**, presented at an inspirational service on Sunday 12th July by Barbara Bryant, the Environmental Office.



The Eco Church Team is few in number. This achievement was only possible through the co-operation of the Church Council and all of you members plus lots of help from MALGA members and others in the village, most recently at the annual 'Mow & Rake'

THANK YOU!

Some aspects you may have noticed:

- A 'green' theme included in many **services** – in praise to our Creator and confession for our part in spoiling so much of what has been created. **Wild Church** gives us space to appreciate the world around.
- In the past few years, the church has also had a more efficient and 'greener' **heating system** and **lighting** installed

- The **churchyard** is managed in a rotation recommended by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. As part of this, the annual **Mow & Rake** of the conservation took place in early in July; we were luckily blessed with an overcast, breezy morning rather than the high temperatures and humidity we have suffered in recent weeks.



A small team co-ordinates activities in the churchyard, and: as well as installing bird boxes over the winter, we have hosted an **NWT Lichen Event**, and **Spring Moth-trapping** to complement the Autumn count: 62 moths, of 10 species, were trapped and released in May.

- **Fairtrade and eco-friendly products** in use in Harvest House as well as the church.
- Coming in September is an **evening on RECYCLING** for the whole village, as the food-waste collection starts, for which we need your help and support.



Now, we can **GO FOR SILVER ...** That requires more involvement from the whole church and others in the village, but we are already well on our way! If you'd like to get involved, contact us or any of the team: *'mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow'* And YOUR idea or help might be exactly what is needed!

Heather Wells & Jill Wright

SEPTEMBER HETHEL CHURCHYARD GRASS-CUTTING

Early September is the time for Wymondham Nature Group to coordinate the cutting of Hethel Churchyard grass. We expect to be clearing the churchyard on Sundays September 6th and 13th and would really appreciate any extra help from 2pm onwards on those days. Tea is provided.

The dates may change depending on the condition of the plants so, if in doubt, please check church email updates. Thank you for your support.

Mardlers

Mulbarton *Mardlers* meet in the Social Club every fourth Tuesday afternoon, between 2 and 4pm - August 25th, September 22nd, and October 27th. Please do join us, especially if you're on your own, for an afternoon of chat and delicious homemade refreshments!



We had a lovely day trip by accessible coach to Gorleston in early June, a chance to have a walk on the prom, see the sea, and have coffee and lunch at the Pier Hotel!

Sadly, the intense heatwave at the end of the month caused a severe weather warning to be issued, which meant we had to cancel our June meet up on safety grounds. Hopefully, all future meetings will go ahead without issue!

By the time you read this, we will no doubt be planning for Autumn, and dare we say it ... Christmas!

NOTE - if you require transport, please contact Sue Mellows (07936 703124), or Tracey Salisbury (07708 228998), and a lift can be arranged for you

Tracey Salisbury

With you there is light

In June 1942, under the Nazi regime, five students and one professor at the University of Munich created the '*White Rose*', a non-violent resistance group. The group conducted an anonymous leaflet and graffiti campaign that called for active opposition to the Nazi regime. The campaign ran from June 1942 to February 1943 when the core group was arrested by the Gestapo. The members of the group faced show trials. Many were imprisoned and core members of the group were executed by guillotine four days after their arrest. One of those executed was 21-year-old Sophie Scholl.

As part of my Creative Music Production course, I've been writing a few songs and I've taken this story as inspiration. The chorus is two lines each with the same five words: "With you there is light". I'd encourage you to think about who is light in your life and who you can be light to.

White Rose

by Stewart Burchell,
dedicated to Sophie Scholl

You could not bear the lies they told
The horror of the lives they stole
The only weapon you would use
The printed truth of the accused
You would not stand the wasted words
It's then that you were seen and heard...

At twenty-one they came for you
You knew then what you had to do
Your wisdom and your innocence
Were all you had in your defence
But how can flowering truth prevail
Against corruption's howling gale?

With you there is light
With you there is light

And they the lost and you the found
They could not comprehend the ground
In which your strong ideals were sown
In which your honesty was grown
The wolf rose up and cut you down
Your petals scattered all around

***With you there is light
With you there is light***

And sometimes in the dark of night
I ask myself about that light
Which lit up who you were inside
A beacon that they could not hide
And living under that same sun
Would I stand up or would I run?
What would I have done...?

I sometimes sit and think of all
The things you never did at all
The music that you never heard
Your paintings, poems never shared
And Springtime blossoms never smelled
The child that you never held

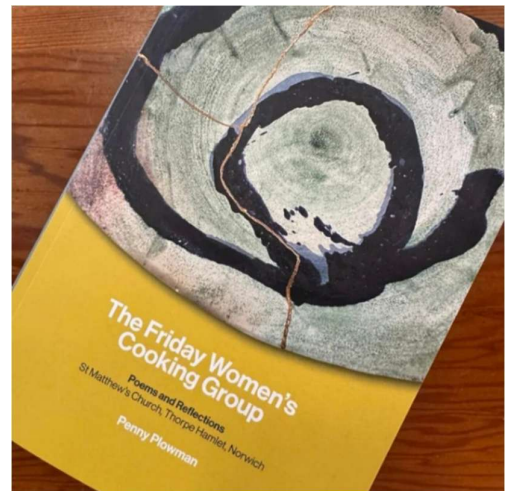
***With you there is light
With you there is light
With you there is light
With you the light still shines***



Sophia Magdalena Scholl
(1921-1943)

A GOOD READ - *The Friday Women's Cooking Group – Poems and Reflections* by Penny Plowman

A few minutes' walk from St. Matthew's Church, Thorpe Hamlet, a hotel provided accommodation for women and children seeking asylum in the UK. In this stressful environment there were no facilities for cooking and preparing familiar meals. The Friday Women's Cooking Group offered a sanctuary where the women could make food for their families, develop friendships and seek advice. This is a small book but a challenging read.



Alice Lince

From the Registers

Baptisms

24 May 2026 Daisy Grace FISK
24 May 2026 Margot ROWLAND

Funerals

6 June 2026 Allan Walter MOORE (Flordon)
23 June 2026 James LEGGETT (Funeral at Hethel, burial at Bracon Ash)
22 July 2026 Peter HARDINGHAM (Mulbarton)

Burial of Ashes

20 June 2026 George and Doreen FLETCHER (Hethel)

Heather Wells

Church website www.mulbchurch.org.uk

This month's editor: Julie Wilkins

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