

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funeral

5 Feb Mulbarton Daphne Spalding

### Funeral and Burial

11 Dec Mulbarton Christopher Strafford

### Funeral and Crematorium Services

20 Nov Flordon Dr. John Raymond Hadden

### Crematorium and Burial of Ashes

1 Dec Mulbarton Sarah Ladbrooke

### Burial of Ashes

24 Nov Mulbarton Valentina Kleyменова  
13 Feb Mulbarton Gerald Horth

### Memorial Service

30 Jan Hethel Catherine Hayes

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

Rector: Rev. Adrian Miller: 01508 571167 - [adrian@mulbchurch.org.uk](mailto: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

APRIL/ MAY 2026

Mulbarton Benefice newsletter



**FOLLOWING JESUS**

*Sharing the journey*

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

**INTERREGNUM COPY**

Welcome to the first Interregnum Copy of The Mardle.

Please take a look inside to find out details of our **Easter Services** and to see what's going on in and around the Benefice.

To whet your appetite, we have walks at Hethel, a table top sale at Flordon, opportunities to bless through the Community Pantry in Mulbarton, people and places to pray for including Bishop Bahati, in the Diocese of Bukavu, and a Mardle Musing and thought from Word for Today to ponder and encourage.

Whilst the dates in our Diary Pages are our hope, things may need to change a little as we go along and find our feet in this time of vacancy.

So **please** keep an eye on our **noticeboards, website and the regular weekly emails** as things may change. If unsure please ask.

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding with this.

And please **pray for** those leading, running, organising, and hosting services and events as the interregnum progresses.

## A prayer for this Easter Season.

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to us who believe the gates of everlasting life.

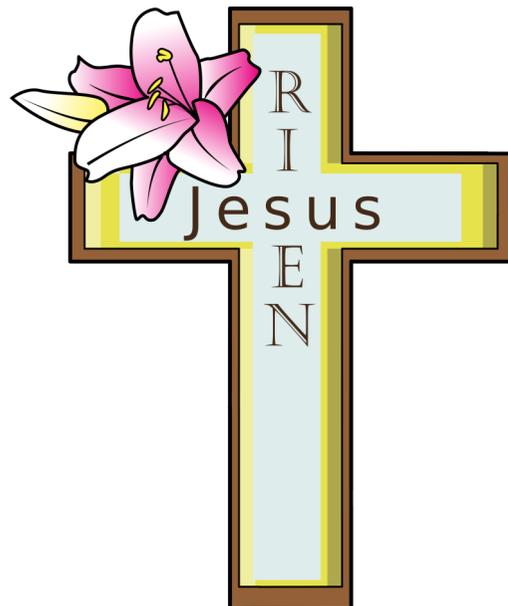
**Amen.**

God the Son,  
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give us joy as we share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,  
empower us and fill us with Christ's peace.

**Amen.**



My highlighting of the Bishop's final sentence. Please keep Bishop Bahati, the Diocese of Bukavu and the country of DR Congo in your prayers.

Thank you, Jill (Wright)

## Live on purpose, for a purpose

07 MARCH 2026

*'Be very careful, then, how you live...making the most of every opportunity.'* [Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV](#)

If you make wise decisions now, you'll have a better future. If you waste your time now, you'll have regrets. That's why you need to do the right thing when you have the opportunity to do it. Paul wrote: 'Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us' (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV). God is able to do great things as His power works through you. So it's not just about God doing things *for* you; He also wants to do things *through* you. Stop wishing your life would change, and start taking action! Pray and study God's Word. And as He speaks to your heart, step out in faith and do what He leads you to do. God created you to live on purpose, for a purpose! He hasn't just called you to be busy – He's also called you to bear good fruit (see John 15:16).

It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of life. But you need to take time out to think about how you're spending your time! Before you go to sleep, reflect on the things that filled your day: which of them fulfilled God's plan and purpose and which of them were a distraction? Ask God to reveal the things that need to change and ways you can make better choices that line up with His wisdom. Then lean on Him for the strength you need to make those changes. If you do, you'll be fulfilled, peaceful, and excited about how God is working in your life.

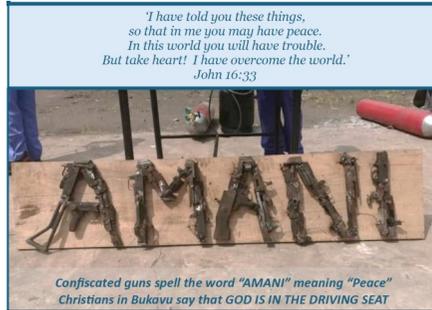
[Numbers 11-12](#), [Mark 5:21-43](#)

(From UCB Word for Today, UCB Westport Road, Stoke on Trent ST6 4JF)

*Chris and Marina*

## OUR LINK WITH BUKAVU DIOCESE in the Democratic Republic of Congo

For more than 25 years Mulbarton Church has supported the Diocese of Bukavu in D R Congo with donations and prayer and occasionally has had visits from people living there. Bukavu is a major city in eastern Congo, on the border with Rwanda, which has an Anglican cathedral and is the headquarters of a large diocese. I have just received a short message from the Bishop, Rt. Rev. Sylvestre Bahati Bali-Busane.



From Bishop Bahati, sent 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (translated from French):

Good afternoon, my brothers and sisters in Christ,,,, We hope that you pray for us.

It is true that God's people are suffering greatly here in the Provinces of South Kivu and North Kivu where it is a year since M23 took control of Goma and Bukavu. There is no life. We experience day after day killings, rapes, looting, kidnaps, lots of displaced people and refugees. There is no work, no banks. Many charities do not want to finance the diocese, saying that we are at war. Yet in spite of the war, we are here and the churches function in spite of everything.

....There is a TEARfund project at present in the Diocese of Bukavu. The aim is to build up the resilience of the population in Fizi district. Because of the war this project has been suspended. In spite of that we will try to present a project [to Tearfund] for aid for the displaced [people].

Thank you for the concern you have for us. **Please keep praying for us and for peace in our country.** United with you in prayer,  
Rt Rev BAHATI Sylvestre (continued)

# Easter Services



## PALM SUNDAY 29th March

10am All Age Service ~ Mulbarton Church

## MAUNDY THURSDAY 2nd April

2.30pm Communion ~ Hanover Gardens  
7.30pm Tenebrae Service ~ Flordon Church

## GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April

10am Reflection in Mulbarton Church,  
followed by Prayers by the Cross on The Common  
2pm Meditation Hour ~ Hethel Church

## EASTER SUNDAY 5th April

9am Easter Communion ~ BraconAsh Church  
10am Easter Praise ~ Mulbarton Church  
6.30pm Easter Praise ~ Flordon Church

## Community Pantry

The Brownies recently came to church to find out about the Community Pantry as part of their Charity Badge. I thought I would share some of the things we talked about here.



I began by asking them what they had for breakfast. So I wonder what you had today? And then I asked them what they were having for their tea? I wonder what you will eat tonight? What options you have to choose from?

If you are someone who has food every day and are not worrying if there will be food to eat when you need it, then that means you have **Food Security**. And so, **Food Insecurity** is when you are living not knowing if there will be enough food to eat in your day, or your week, to keep you nourished and healthy.

The **Trussel Trust** published some disturbing figures last year:

**14.1 million** people are now living in Food Insecurity in the UK

That equates to **1 in 6** households.

And **6.5 million** turned to charity for help.

Which means that more than half didn't. The Trussel Trust are exploring reasons why so many are not accessing help.

And that's where our little Community Pantry comes in, because it offers help to those who cannot afford to travel elsewhere to access help. It is local and it is available, no questions asked.

We have people visiting who, for **health or mental health** reasons, aren't able to work, so the food in the drawers is a real help.

We have **elderly people** visiting, living with difficult choices about how to spend their money, so the food in the drawers is a real help.

We have **families** visiting, some thrown off kilter with a child's illness so serious a parent has had to leave work, so the food in the drawers is a

Hot on the heels of the 9 May walk, we'll **Beat the Bounds** on the 10th, leaving church at 2.30pm. This is a two-hour prayer walk around some of the boundaries of the parish, remembering before God people, public roles (such as councillors) and places of work. Always tea and home-made cake back at church to look forward to at the end.

Finally, **John the bell** is back in operation and has sounded on a number of occasions, to many appreciative comments from local residents. We do intend to have a 'grand opening' with a speaker and perhaps an opportunity to visit the belfry. The builders, however, add delay to delay and do not expect to complete the ground-stage ladder until after Easter, so there's no date for such a celebration yet. Hopefully we'll still be here to enjoy it!



## Mardle Musing

Luke 24:36 / John 20:19-29

Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection but Thomas was not with them. He said he needed to see the wounds or he could not believe. Jesus appeared again when Thomas was there and told Thomas to put his hand in his wound and his finger in his hands. Thomas did and believed.

After the resurrection why wasn't Jesus healed of all his wounds? We don't hear of them again. Were they preserved so that Thomas could believe?

When we have troubles and they don't seem to be resolved, it could be that they are there so that someone else may be blessed and able to believe. And we may never know.



*Maurice Lince*

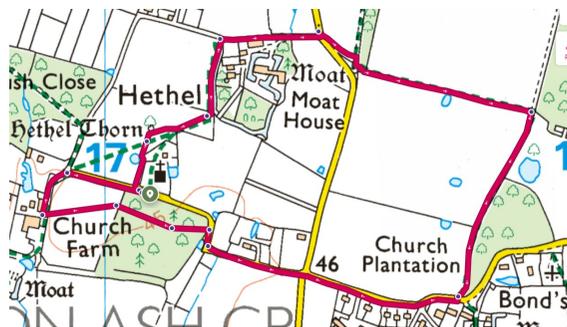
## Goings on at Hethel Church

Regular services on second Sundays of course, plus our important contribution to the benefice on Good Friday: the 2pm **contemplative service**, which Derrick will lead this year. I wrote in our email newsletter last week: "Timed to coincide with what tradition has was Jesus' final hour on the cross, it's an opportunity to gaze quietly at Hethel's crucifix, to listen to readings and a short reflection and to sing one or two poignant hymns such as *O Sacred Head sore wounded*, with space and time in between for your own thoughts and prayers."



As a modern tradition has it, there will be **tea and hot cross buns** at our house behind the church afterwards.

The **Wild about Hethel** project is gathering pace, as is spring, with people contributing 'spots' to the facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wildaboutbethel>) and iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/home>). We've started a **circular walk** on the second Saturday of each month (11 April; 9 May): under 2 miles / 35 minutes passing through seven or eight different habitats. The March one took an hour and 35 because of stopping and looking! Top spot to Dr Anne Edwards - a bagworm on a holly leaf in the wood opposite the church. (No, I didn't know what one of those was, either!) Our April walk will start with opening moth traps set the previous night. Do join us a bit before 10.30am and bring your camera or phone - who knows what you'll discover or notice?



real help. Or when a parent as unexpectedly **lost their job** and it takes time for other help to kick in, so the food in the drawers is a real help.

Anything that anyone can ever put in there shows a little bit of love and a little bit of care and a little bit of support for our neighbours here in Mulbarton who need a little bit of extra help. And that's what Jesus asks us to do—love our neighbour.

If anyone would like to be more proactively involved in this ministry please do get in touch, as I will need to hand this on when the time comes for me to leave. And thank you to those who give or have given. You are such a blessing.

Sarah Miller

## SATURDAY 16th MAY - TABLETOP AND CRAFT SALE - FLORDON CHURCH

10.30 am - 4pm

\*\* Please come and join us at Flordon Church for a Tabletop and Craft sale on Saturday 16th May from 10.30 am - 4pm . Refreshments with homemade cakes will also be available!

If you are interested in having a table ( for a fee of £10) please contact me on [07950298177](tel:07950298177) or via email [karen.greenacre123@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.greenacre123@btinternet.com)



## Diary Pages

Please keep an eye on our noticeboards, website and the regular emails for up to date information.

### April

Thur 2	9.15am 2.30pm 7.30pm	Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Communion at Hanover Gardens Tenebrae Service at Flordon
Fri 3	10am  2pm	Good Friday Reflection in Mulbarton church, followed by Prayers by the Cross on the Common and Refreshments at Harvest House Good Friday Meditation at Hethel followed by Hot Cross Buns
Sun 5	9am 10am 6.30pm	<b>Easter Communion at Bracon Ash</b> <b>Easter Praise at Mulbarton</b> <b>Easter Praise at Flordon</b>
Sat 11	10.30am	Circular Walk at Hethel (see p8)
Sun 12	8.30am 10am	<b>Communion at Hethel</b> <b>Morning Worship at Mulbarton</b>
Mon 13 Thur 16	10.am Thur 2nd	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub 9.15am Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Sun 19	9.00am 10.00am	<b>Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer</b> <b>Mulbarton Church: Communion</b>
Mon 20 Thurs 23	10am 9.15am 10.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Mid-week Communion: Flordon
Sun 26th	10.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	<b>Hanover Gardens: Church @ Hanover</b> <b>Harvest House: Together Meal</b> <b>Mulbarton Church: Together Service</b>
Mon 27 Tue 28 Thur 30	10.00am 2pm 9.15am	Community Hub: Mulbarton Social Club Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer

## May

Whilst these dates are our hope for May, we may need to make a few changes as we go along. Please keep an eye on your emails or the website for up to date information. If unsure please contact one of your PCC members.

Sun 3	9am 10am	<b>Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer</b> <b>Mulbarton Church: WILD CHURCH</b>
Tues 5 Thur 7	2.30pm 9.15am 2.30pm	Teapot Tuesday at Bracon Ash Village Hall Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Hanover Gardens: Mid-Week Service
Sat 9	10.30am	Circular Walk at Hethel (see p8)
Sun 10	8.30pm 10.00pm 6.30pm	<b>Hethel Church: Communion</b> <b>Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship</b> <b>Flordon Church: Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 11 Thur 7 Sat 16	10.00am 9.15am 10.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Flordon Table Top Sale (see p 5)
Sun 17	9am 10am	<b>Bracon Ash Church: Communion</b> <b>Mulbarton Church: Communion</b>
Mon 18 Thurs 21	10.00am 9.15am 10.30am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer Mid-week Communion: Flordon
<b>Mardle Deadline-Editor Chris Carter</b> <b>chrismarinacarter@gmail.com with the subject line Mardle</b>		
Sun 24	10.30am 2.30pm 6.00pm 7.00pm	<b>Hanover Gardens: Church@Hanover</b> <b>Hethel: Beating the Bounds</b> <b>Harvest House: Together Meal</b> <b>Mulbarton Church: Together Service</b>
Mon 25 Tue 26 Thurs 28	10.00am 2pm 9.15am	Mulbarton Social Club: Community Hub Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club Harvest House: Coffee and Prayer
Sun 31	10.00am	<b>Mulbarton Church: Service TBC</b>