

Mums in Prayer: we are a worldwide community of interdenominational Christian mothers who meet to pray for children and schools. Our vision is for every school to be covered in prayer by gathering mothers to pray.



I would be delighted to help you start praying in a Mums in Prayer group and encourage local Mums, Auntie's and Grandmothers to commit to pray scripturally for our children and schools, ideally for one hour, once a week in a Mums in Prayer group, either in person or via medias like Skype or Zoom. Please be assured that we expect our prayers to remain confidential to the group and you will not be told how to parent. The prayer hour is a time to give your burdens for your children and schools to God.

I am Norfolk Area Coordinator and have recently taken on a new role with the Europe & Israel Head Office team as their Prayer Calendar Co-ordinator.

Please do contact me if you if you have any questions or would like to know more about a Mums in Prayer group . You can also find out more via the websites www.momsinprayer.eu or our headquarters sister site www.momsinprayer.org With blessings Helen tel: 01508 571378 email: helen.pennington@momsinprayer.eu

APCMs

It will soon be the season of annual meetings. If you are on the electoral roll of a parish, please do come along to your annual meeting, to hear how things have been the last year, and to look forward to where we are wanting to go in the coming year and what challenges and opportunities await. Dates have been set for all the Annual Parochial Church Meetings:



Bracon Ash APCM - 2:30pm, Tuesday **26th April**, **Bracon Ash Church**

Hethel APCM - 7:30pm, Tuesday **24th May**, **Hethel Church**

Flordon APCM - 7:30pm, Wednesday **25th May**, **Flordon Church**

Mulbarton APCM - 7:30pm, Monday **30th May**, **Harvest House**

If you consider yourself a member of one of the parish churches, please do talk to the electoral roll officer, or churchwarden, and join the electoral roll.

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

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

This month's editor Chris Carter

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

MARDLE

MARCH/APRIL 2022



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

Mardle Reboot!

I am pleased that we can start communicating with the six congregations in the four parishes through the Mardle magazine again. We are making it bi-monthly and will see how it goes. As always, feedback is welcome! Thank you to Chris for editing this return edition. I write this at Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, when final winter decorations are taken down around the world, including the star on Mulbarton church tower. Sad to see that sign of hope missing. And yet a stunning sliver of a new moon out there just now, a new year, new hope of a post-pandemic world as the days lengthen. What a lot of twists and turns there have been through 2021!

This time last year, we were still not meeting in person on Sundays. Since then, we've adapted to a mixed economy of in-person and remote services (you can catch us on YouTube). I conducted ten weddings, with more guests allowed as the year progressed (another ten planned this year!). We've sought to find the right balance between being safe and offering spaces for people to gather

Cont/d....

At the same time, we've tried to find fresh ways to connect with people, expanding the church Facebook group, as a place where all can explore spiritual journeys and learn from one another.

If you'd like to join, just search "**Mulbarton Church Family**" on Facebook and send a request.

We have also experienced a lot of change in people's lives: goodbyes and hellos. Some beloved fellow travellers have died, and some have moved to fresh pastures, full of hope for new things. That includes our long-time administrative assistant, Caroline, who with her husband, Ian, leaves a huge hole, and was a special personal support to me.

We do wish her and others well in new ventures.

My wife, Sarah, has taken on a reduced hours admin role in the church, and brings a lot of gifts to the job.

We have also welcomed several new people to the worshiping community over the last year, which has been a real joy, seeing people find a spiritual home with us.

We hope to continue to work closely with the wider communities we seek to serve, as no doubt more changes unfold over the coming year.

For me personally, this will mean exploring how I can best contribute to the good of Mulbarton life in a new role as Mulbarton Village Hall charity trustee, and I look forward to being part of its future, and feel encouraged by the fresh energy and feel of that.

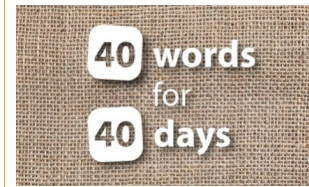
Our vision to be following Jesus and sharing the journey with these communities, remains central and key to all we are doing. May we know the presence of the Holy Spirit as we walk that journey together. Adrian

David Pollard - Funeral, 10am, Wed 9th March, Mulbarton Church

David Pollard, who has been a long-time friend and supporter of Mulbarton Church, a proud and valued member of Mulbarton Community Choir, good company at our weekly Open the Book school assemblies, a faithful operator of the sound desk at many a church event, safeguarding coordinator for the group of churches here, a carer to his (and our) beloved Edna until her death in February last year, an animated Bible reader; and a loving and prayerful friend to many, unexpectedly died recently at his home. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and I know many locally will be grieving his passing as well.

If you would like to attend his funeral at Mulbarton Church, please let Adrian know, to help us plan for catering and safety purposes. The family would be delighted if as many of David's church and community could make it.

Lent Course - 40 Prayers for 40 Days



Adrian will lead discussion on Wednesday evenings during Lent in Harvest House. It will be a chance to talk about the resource that Susanna Gunner is working on. You'll need to sign up as below to get it 'delivered' daily.

We will also be posting links on the website and Facebook. Susanna is recording all her reflections, so you can listen to her read them out, as well as read - especially useful for the visually impaired among us. If you do not have access to the internet, please let Adrian or Sarah know, and we will print out the 40 reflections and let you have them on paper. This Lent focus on prayer is part of the new diocesan vision for being "prayerful, pastoral and prophetic".

This is what Susanna herself says about it. "The Diocese of Norwich has recently embraced a new Vision: *Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic*. So, to support our 'Prayerful' focus in the Vision's first year, I'm offering a prayer a day during this Lenten season. Once again, because I've decided to include the six Sundays of Lent (and to end with Easter Day itself), that's actually 47 (not 40) prayers! How have I chosen the prayers?

Well, some of my choices have been triggered by special days in the calendar or by biblical readings set for that day.

Others have emerged out of what's going on in the world around us. I've deliberately spread the net wide and drawn on prayers from across the globe, centuries and traditions.

Each prayer will be accompanied by a reflection, an image and often by a musical setting too."

Sign up by going to the church website.
www.mulbchurch.org.uk
Adrian



Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride & Walk, September 2021.

A big thanks to Tom, Gavin and John who cycled for Mulbarton Church last September. I hope that I haven't missed anyone out, if so a big thanks to you too! Between them they raised approx £500.



The proceeds from this annual event are shared equally between the churches taking part and the Norfolk Churches Trust. In February we received a cheque for our church for £268.47, which included some gift aid.

Thanks also to Jill Wright who has organised this event for Mulbarton for several years.

A quote from the letter accompanying the cheque: ‘

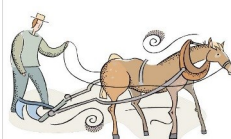
This year saw the bike ride pass a phenomenal milestone, since the event's beginning in 1983 more than £4 million has been raised in aid of Norfolk churches... The Bike Ride really does make a difference.

Open the Book



The Open the Book team will really miss David's company and faithful support in helping us tell the Bible stories to over 400 children at the local primary school. If anybody would like to join this fulfilling and important ministry, please do get in touch with Adrian. We meet at the school in term times at 9:30am every Monday morning, and we finish at about 10:30am. We perform the same story to half the school one week and the other half the next. We are grateful for the opportunity and support of the school and the Bible Society in being able to deliver this high quality collective worship.

**Hethersett District
Lions Club** (CIO)1179036



**Ploughman's
Quiz Night**

**Mulbarton Village Hall
Friday 1st April**

At 7.30pm

Doors open 7pm



Teams of up to six

£8/head including ploughman's supper



Raffle and Bar

Contact: 01508 570392

Proceeds to
Breast Cancer

Mardlers



We're really pleased that Mardlers has been able to meet since last October after a long gap from spring 2020. We have averaged 30-40 people most months and celebrated with a special Christmas afternoon slightly earlier in December than our usual meetings.

Mardlers is an afternoon of tea and chat and an opportunity to meet others at Social Club, Mulbarton Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of every month. We meet from 2 - 4.00pm and transport can be provided if needed. You are very welcome to join us. We hope that we will be able to restart some of our popular trips out later in the year.

As usual, a very big thanks to everyone who continue to give lifts for us, bake, comes to chat with the guests and those who faithfully pray for us each month. We couldn't do this without you and without the support from the Social Club. If anyone would like to come along to support us once a month, or just occasionally, more help with making tea and coffee or chatting with the guests would be very welcome.

Just speak to Sue Mellows 578034 or Tracey Salisbury 578068 for more information

CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group is starting up again on Monday March 7th. first and third Mondays each month.

2.00 to 4.00 pm.

Any craft is welcome
at

Cyndy & Stephen
Bowles, Church View,



The Common, Mulbarton NR14 8JQ
ON THE ROAD BETWEEN FORGE ORCHARD AND THE SCHOOL

Tea and biscuits supplied.

If you're 'new' to the group and would like more details, please email -
bowlessq@hotmail.com

Dignity for women and girls in difficult times ...

With more and more pressures on household incomes many are deeply worried about how they will cope. Before these new pressures have hit though a study in 2017 found that in the UK 1 in 10 girls couldn't afford to buy adequate sanitary wear for their periods. And behind these 1 in 10 girls how many women are there facing the same each month? Period Poverty was a reality before our current headlines and as an increasing number of households are living with incomes that will no longer last the month, it is not going to go away.

So for any women and girls in our villages who may need to know this we will be collecting and making available sanitary products alongside the Foodbank that already runs in Mulbarton Church porch. If you have need in this way please don't suffer in silence or alone. Come and take what would be a help to you. And if anyone would like to donate any products then please do so. You can drop them off in the church porch and place in the box which will be marked 'Dignity in Difficult Times'. Thank you.

Sarah

Good Friday Walk of the Cross

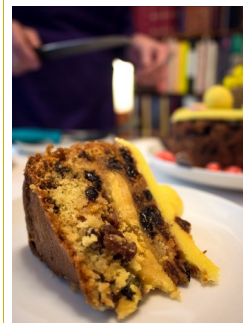
We meet at the Village Sign on the north of the Common, and will walk with the cross past almost every house in the village, coming back to the village sign, where we will erect a cross, hear some Bible readings, say some prayers and sing a song.

Covid safety allowing, we hope to serve hot cross buns in Harvest House afterwards.

Anyone is welcome to join us for the whole walk, for a part of it, or meet us at about noon at the village sign for the public act of worship, or in Harvest House for a bun!

The route we will walk is shown opposite, so you can work out roughly when to expect us, if you want to join as we walk past your house. (See map on page 5).

A larger map is available on the church website www.mulbchurch.org.uk



Hethel Church tea, crumpets and toasted teacakes.

You might read this in time to come on Sunday afternoon 27 Feb for our winter special, dripping with butter, honey or golden syrup. In church, 2-5pm. Sunday 27 March is Mothering Sunday or it can be called Simnel Sunday.

So, in addition to toasted goodies, we're offering Simnel cake - a traditional cake for the day. Do come (2-5pm as February), and if you're a mum or can bring your mother, blessing is certain!
Peter Nicholls

Calling All Flower Arrangers...

We are hoping to hold a Flower Festival at Flordon Church during August Bank Holiday weekend (27-29 Aug 2022) and are looking for people who will produce flower arrangements for the event. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Pam Harvey 01508 470439 or Email :- harvey.pam@btinternet.com.



A meeting for all who are interested in taking part will be held in Flordon church at 7.30 pm on March 29th. £25 pp will be given to help cover the cost of flowers.

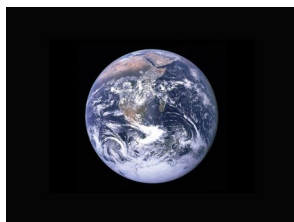
BEATITUDES and ATTITUDES

This is the theme of our service at Hanover Gardens on Sunday 27th February, 10.30 am. In the past I have produced a list of readings for the month ahead on a theme which was sent out to those who couldn't access our Zoom services, especially thinking of our Church @ Hanover congregation and some in the smaller villages. With Lent in mind, I have listed 40 readings on the theme of the ATTITUDES we should be helping the Holy Spirit to develop in us so that we grow more like Jesus.

For those who would like them and don't come to the Hanover service, I will leave a few spare copies in the churches by pancake day or am happy to e-mail you a copy if you wish. Jill Wright [dandjwright@hotmail.com]

"How to be a greener Christian"

Should followers of Jesus live more sustainably than anyone else? Arguably not – if the world is to reach "net zero" by 2050, every living soul has to pull their weight! But there are powerful arguments why Christians should be **leading** the change. Here's three.

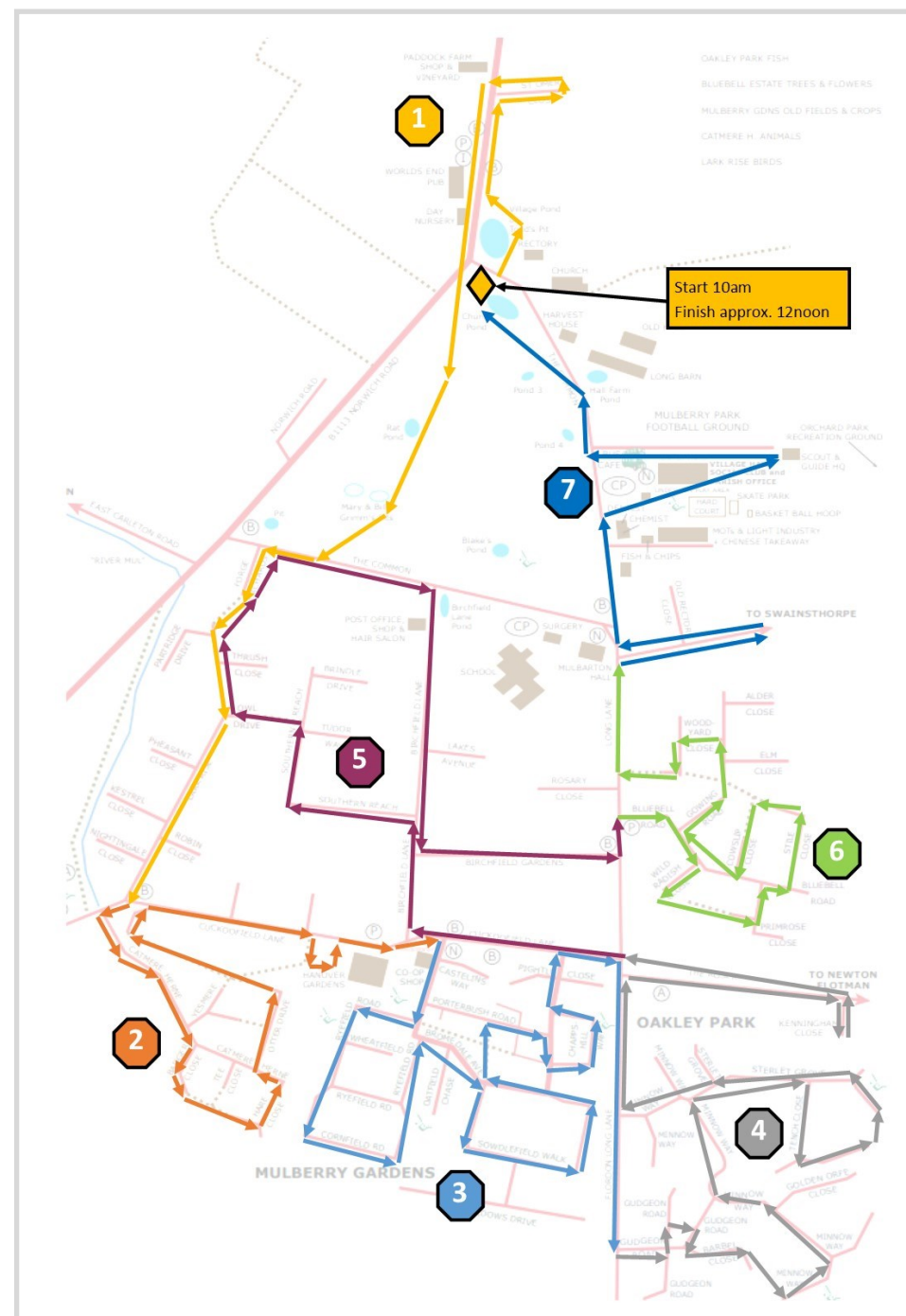


1. This is God's world. He has asked us to look after it. Genesis 1.31 reminds us that "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." 1.28 reminds us that we have a duty of care for God's very good creation!

2. As well as calling us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (see point 1 above!), Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves (Luke 10.27-8). When pressed on who that neighbour is, Jesus flipped the question: "Who are you going to choose to be a neighbour to?" (Luke 10.36). Rising sea levels and deadly floods are already putting tens of millions of lives at risk in Bangladesh, but they bring another problem that threatens the entire nation: waterlogged land and high salinity in streams and soil are killing crops. Do you choose to be a neighbour to them? Madagascar is on the brink of experiencing the world's first 'climate change famine': tens of thousands of people are already suffering 'catastrophic' levels of hunger and food insecurity after four years without rain. Are those beautiful people your neighbours? By 2050, my youngest grandchild will be 36, still with half his life ahead of him. What will the world be like for him? Is he my neighbour? Ask Jesus the questions.

3. "Do as I say, not as I do" doesn't cut it in the modern world. If we are to have any credibility with our family and friends, as individuals and as a church community, we need to set an example. For me, changing my lifestyle has been a journey, not a snap of the fingers. You can't do it all at once. I'm still on that journey, and am happy to share a few things learned on the way. More next month, but four headings to be thinking about are travel, energy, food and stuff. It's about minimising impact, not zeroing it – It doesn't need to be a hair shirt experience! We get about, stay warm, enjoy vegetarian as much as we ever enjoyed meat and still buy things when needed. And usually end up saving some money.

Peter Nicholls



MARCH/APRIL 2022

Monthly Calendar

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

MARCH 2022

Wed 2	7.30pm	Mulbarton Church: Ash Wednesday Service
Thur 3	7.30pm	Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir rehearsals resume
Sun 6	8.00am 9.00am 10.00am	Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship
Mon 7	2.00pm	Church View: Craft Group (See page 3)
Wed 9	10.00am	Mulbarton Church: David Pollard's Funeral (See Page 2)
	7.30pm	Harvest House: Lent Course (See page 11)
Thur 10	2.30pm 7.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Mid Week Service Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir
Sun 13	8.30am 10.00am 3.30pm	Hethel Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Flordon Church: Evening Prayer
Wed 16	7.30pm	Harvest House: Lent Course (See page 11)
Thur 17	7.30pm	Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir
Sun 20	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion
Mon 21	2.00pm	Church View: Craft Group (See page 3)
Tues 22	2-4pm	Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club (see p3)
Wed 23	7.30pm	Harvest House: Lent Course (See page 11)
Thur 24	7.30pm	Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir
		Mothering Sunday
Sun 27	8.30am 10.00am 10.30am 2.00pm	Flordon Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Hanover Gardens: Church@Hanover Hethel Church: Winter Café (See Page 9)

REMEMBER BRITISH SUMMER TIME STARTS
Clocks go forward One hour

Wed 30	7.30pm	Harvest House: Lent Course (See page 11)
Thur 31	7.30pm	Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir

APRIL 2022

Fri 1	7.30pm	Mulbarton Village Hall: Lions' Quiz (See page 10)
Sun 3	9.00am 10.00am	Bracon Ash Church: Morning Prayer Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship
Mon 4	2.00pm	Church View: Craft Group (See page 3)
Wed 6	7.30pm	Harvest House: Lent Course (See page 11)
Sun10	8.30am 10.00am	Hethel Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: All Age Service
Tues 12	7.30pm	Flordon Church: Tenebrae Service
Wed 13	7.30pm	Harvest House: Lent Course (See page 11)
Thurs 14	2.30pm	Hanover Gardens: Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

Fri 15	10.00am 2.00pm	Mulbarton: Walk of the Cross. (See pages 4/5) Hethel Church: Meditative Service
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Easter Sunday

Sun 17	8.00am 9.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Mulbarton Church: Holy Communion Bracon Ash Church: Holy Communion Mulbarton Church: All Age Easter Communion Flordon Church: Easter Praise
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Mon 18	2.00pm	Church View: Craft Group (See page 3)
Thur 21	7.30pm	Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir

Sun 24	10.00am 10.30 am	Mulbarton Church: Morning Worship Hanover Gardens: Church @Hanover
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Articles for May/June Mardle by today 24/4 to Sarah Miller
E mail: sarah@mulbchurch.org.uk

Tues 26	2.-4pm	Mardlers: Mulbarton Social Club (see page 3)
	2.30pm	Bracon Ash Church: Annual Meeting
Thur 28	7.30pm	Mulbarton School: Mulbarton Community Choir