

# THE LANTERN

NEWS OF THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S BREDFIELD



*Photo Ann Pilgrim*

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**NOVEMBER 2025**

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## FROM ST ANDREW'S MINISTRY TEAM

### The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1963 a quiet, kind History teacher came running out of the staffroom in my Devon prep school yelling 'they have shot the President'. Jack Kennedy was dead and a string of political assassinations, riots and preparations for war started in the United States.

In Oxford a Cambridge professor, specialising in medieval literature died on the same day. Jack had been in poor health for some time.

Clive Staples Lewis (known as Jack) was never a national treasure and when he died in 1963 there were few obituaries, and those there were dammed his memory with faint praise. Time magazine described him as ***'one of the church's minor prophets with an unfashionable orthodoxy set against the heresies of his time.'***

All my adult life I have been grateful to that academic who grew up in a different world to the one we know today. Lewis experienced pain, discomfort, grief and loneliness through his Edwardian childhood. He was sent to a terrible boarding school after his mother died. He became a soldier in the trenches, a carer for his dead comrade's mother for forty years and a man who found lasting fame for a set of children's books. Like Rowan Williams, one of Lewis's greatest fans, I regret never having read *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'* in childhood.

Lewis created his own fantasy world in seven novels he wrote for children. As Rowan Williams explained, you can read the Narnia novels thinking of seven

rooms in a house. Go beyond that and see that the rooms have windows looking out on a landscape. Read the Narnia novels with a child and they may ask you deep questions about faith and your own beliefs. The central character, Aslan, is both powerful and so attractive that children get the idea of sacrifice and resurrection. In these novels Lewis contrasts the emptiness of human nature with a yearning and wistfulness to be with the Christ figure, Aslan. The death and resurrection of the lion is particularly well written.

Lewis has his critics, but his writing makes people think and learn to feel. We can think we know what faith is, but Lewis offers to help us with the experience of surrender in the face of absolute incarnate love. His description of joy is worth tasting. His understandings of why we are here on this planet are worth exploring for ourselves. His books on Christian faith, marriage and grief can still be found in good bookshops to this day.

When you are ill or lonely, please take Narnia to bed and explore again the issues of love, joy and the pain of loss through a child's eye. Share Aslan's world with your children or your grandchildren and go into a reality that is bigger than the one you left behind by simply going through the wardrobe. When you become a fan, pop into The Eagle and Child Pub (also known as 'the Bird and Baby'!) the next time you are in Oxford, where C S Lewis tried out chapters on his friends seventy-five years ago this month.

*'It's-It's a magic wardrobe. There's a wood inside it, and it's snowing and there's a Faun and a Witch and it's called Narnia; come and see...'*  
(The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950) chapter 3 page 120)

*Rev Bill Herbert*

## INTRODUCING OUR SECOND NEW CURATE: REV PETER PLUMMER



Greetings to Everyone in Bredfield! I am Peter Plummer and I have been ordained this year. It has been great to have been able to lead services and preach at St Andrew's before; it will be wonderful to continue to serve in this way.

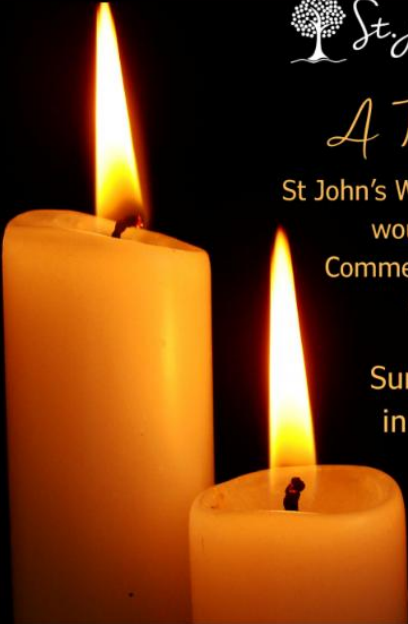
Originally from Barnet in Hertfordshire, I worshipped at an Anglican church there where I met my wife, Julie. We have just celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We moved to East Anglia some 35 years ago and to Woodbridge 20 years ago. We have 4 daughters, 2 sons and a grandson. I enjoy running with the Woodbridge Shufflers and playing my guitar. These days I only enjoy *watching* rugby.

There is a Beatles song "The Long and Winding Road", which might be a good summary of my journey of faith thus far with many interesting and some challenging moments along the way. I left school and had intended to do something musical as I had some experience of singing on the stage in London. I started working in the finance sector with IT and company mergers and acquisitions prior to following up on my vocation over the last years. To experience a spiritual "niggle" within you and to discern what this is and where it is coming from is something that many of us may well have experienced. Apparently to call this a "niggle" is something that two Bishops have told me is a perfectly acceptable theological term. How might we sense God prompting us to explore things further? Prayerfully considering this calling has led me to where I am now and I am excited as to what lies ahead of me.

It will be a real privilege to serve both St Andrew's Bredfield as well as St John's Woodbridge as curate and I look forward to meeting with you over the coming months.

Every Blessing  
*Peter*

## DIARY DATES



St. John's  
Woodbridge



St Andrew's

*A Time to Remember*

St John's Woodbridge and St Andrew's Bredfield  
would like to invite you to a joint  
Commemoration & Thanksgiving Service  
for loved ones we have lost

Sunday 2nd November 2025 3pm  
in St John's Church Woodbridge

St John's Church, St John's Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1HS  
info@stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk 01394 383162  
www.stjohnschurch.uk

Reg Charity no: 1128699

## COFFEE AND CAKE



Do come along to **COFFEE AND CAKE** mornings in St Andrew's Church Room. It's a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and make new ones, all in the comfortable Church Room with its new heaters, and with fresh coffee and other hot drinks, cakes and biscuits on offer.



We meet on Wednesdays, usually twice a month. The next dates:

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 10am to 12 pm**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10am to 12 pm**

## CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Once again this year, I will be forming a Christmas choir to take part in our Carol Service which will take place at 17.00 on December 21st. This will be the third year we have run it and if the last two years are anything to go by, it will be a lot of fun.

Everyone is welcome – no previous experience is needed. Rehearsals will take place in the church room on Thursday evenings at 19.30 starting on **November 27<sup>th</sup>**. It would be helpful if you would let me know if you are interested on 07704856005 (email [steve\\_st.andrews@btinternet.com](mailto:steve_st.andrews@btinternet.com)). Otherwise just feel free to turn up at the first rehearsal.

*Steve Stammers*

## 100 CLUB WINNERS October 2025

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b> | No. 57 A Leyland |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b> | No. 4 K Whybrow  |

Bredfield Village Hall's  
Christmas Fair  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
1pm – 4pm



Santa will open  
the Fair at 1pm  
Christmas Themed Stalls  
Mulled wine  
Mince pies & Festive Baps  
Raffle to be drawn at 3.30pm  
Come and Enjoy  
this Community Event

## NEWS FROM BREDFIELD

### Ride and Stride

A huge thank you to everyone involved – sponsors, volunteers and participants – in making this year's Ride and Stride our most successful ever. We raised a record **£1,477.50** in total, half of which comes to St Andrew's and the other half of which goes to support the work of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (of which we have been a beneficiary in the past). Thank you!

*Anne Ackerley*

### ST. ANDREW'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

More than 50 folks attended our Harvest Festival service on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The morning started with a hearty bacon butty and croissant breakfast, along with children's activities and farm machinery to view, followed by a lovely service in the church led by Rev Garrie Griffiths. Several boxes of provisions were donated for the Salvation Army Foodbank in Woodbridge.

The church was beautifully decorated with flower displays in autumn colours and with Lindsay's creative and detailed harvest display on the font. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with this event and thank you to all who donated for the foodbank. This is, of course, ongoing throughout the year and there are collection boxes in the church porch and the village shop.





## CHURCHYARD CLEARUP

Our churchyard cleanup day this year was a great success and thank you to the twenty-four folks who turned out to help. The weather was excellent and we managed to give the church itself a deep clean and put preservative on the doors as well as clear the tower gutters. The churchyard was given a general tidy which included hedges being trimmed, railed tombs being cleared of brambles, removal of water shoots from trees and the gathering up of leaves (although the leaves are now fighting back). We had a great shared lunch half way through the day and there was a really lovely sense of fellowship.

Twigs and woody cuttings were shredded and a pile made inside the gate. The idea is that the shreddings can be taken by those who would like to use them as a mulch. Similarly, the leaves were gathered into twenty-four bags where they will eventually turn into leaf mould. If you would like some of this for your garden, please ring me on 07704856005.

You will also have noticed in recent weeks that Pipp's Tree services have been busy cutting out the dead wood from our trees to make them safe. As part of our cleanup day, the logs from this were moved to create log piles for the benefit of the wildlife in the churchyard and as part of our commitment as an eco church.

*Steve Stammers (photos Steve Stammers, Ann Stammers)*



## **BREDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2025**

### **The Forge Development**

Following the rejection of the Forge planning appeal three members of the Parish Council met with the Forge representative to discuss future development options.

It was agreed that, given the problems with access, parking, and the impact on residential properties upheld at the appeal, the building of industrial units was no longer considered viable.

Limited residential building however, is still seen as an option. Most likely something similar to the residential element of the previous plan, but amended to reflect issues raised around house style, parking and layout.

Everything is at an early stage – the owner currently has no agreed timeline for either the demolition of the Forge or submitting a formal planning application.

For further information please see the minutes and supporting documents to the last Parish Council meeting on the website.

### **Call for Sites**

The Government has pledged to build 1.5 million new homes by 2029. As part of this promise East Suffolk building targets have increased from 916 new homes per year to 1,667.

To enable this East Suffolk have announced a ‘Call for Sites’ where landowners can submit areas for consideration where 5 or more new houses could be built.

The call closes on 9<sup>th</sup> January, after which there will be a period of assessment and consultation.

For further details please see the East Suffolk website.

### **New Bench**

The Parish Council have agreed to pay for a new bench replacing the one at the back of the village shop which has fallen into a state of disrepair.

### **Parish Clerk**

Bredfield has a new Parish Clerk.

Alison Caley will be taking over from Linda in November.

Please make her welcome.

### **Emergency Plan**

For the greater good Bredfield now has an emergency plan. If there is a disaster (such as flooding) the village hall to be opened up to temporary house residents affected and to provide a base for the emergency services.

Please see the minutes for the full details.

### **Next Meeting**

The next full Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 in the village hall.

Please contact the Parish Clerk by the 10<sup>th</sup> November if you would like to raise an issue for the Parish Council to discuss / resolve.

Alternatively, members of the public have the opportunity to raise items with at the start of each meeting.

*Nik Bestow*

## AN INTERVIEW WITH...DAVID HEPPER

The eagle-eyed among you will have spotted that this is the second article about David to appear in the Lantern this year. The reason for this is simple – he gave us so much interesting information about his life that we decided that November, being the month of Remembrance, was an ideal time to concentrate on his career in the Royal Navy.

The last article described how David came to join the Royal Navy and detailed some of his training. As well as learning to swim and climb a mast on HMS Ganges at Shotley, his training allowed him to study for and take GCE's, which were necessary for later promotions. On the whole he enjoyed his training, but clearly has unpleasant memories of the couple of weeks he needed to learn to swim: "You would have to get up at 6 in the morning and a rather grumpy instructor would make you get in the pool and start swimming. They did have a pole, which was officially something to grab onto if you were thrashing about, but it tended to be used to push you back out again if you stopped swimming. In the end, you had to climb up onto the diving board, dive in and swim to the other end of the pool. If you could do that, they said you could swim, and we all managed to do that". It sounds brutal now, but "we all just accepted it".

Time in the Navy was roughly divided into 2-year placements, alternating between on shore and time at sea. He joined his first ship aged 17, an aircraft carrier in the Far East. It was a great adventure to be flown out to Singapore. He remembers getting off the plane and being hit by the wave of heat. This was in the mid-60s, when there was a confrontation going on between Indonesia and Malaysia. There was fighting, but for a 17-year old who didn't really understand what was going on, it was quite exciting.

It took time and effort to learn how to live in very close proximity with about 2,000 people on an aircraft carrier, but it was essential. At that time, there were stacks of 3 bunks on the mess deck, and about 18 people to a room. You had someone's bunk just inches above you, and you would be inches above the person below you. You got to know people really well there.

David was initially trained as a radio operator (morse code is still somewhere in the back of his mind). He was taught to touch-type, which has been an invaluable skill ever since. He then specialised in 'electronic warfare', which he found fascinating, and stayed in that branch, eventually becoming an instructor. He describes it as: different things on a ship use different frequencies – for example radios use lower frequencies and radar uses higher

ones. You can monitor those by simply listening for communications intelligence ('Comint') to find out what they're talking about, or by monitoring radar ('Elint'). By analysing the frequency, the length of pulse, you can tell what the ship is doing, and then what type it is, where it is coming from and who it belongs to – and all from a distance. This training led to 2 "plum" assignments: an appointment to JHQ at Northwood where he was Assistant to the Fleet Electronic Warfare Officer, then after another spell at sea, he went back to JHQ to join the small team under the Staff Officer Intelligence. This was early 1982, and about 6 weeks before the Falklands war



*David in the late 70's while serving onboard the destroyer Hampshire*

kicked off. He was a bit annoyed, as the ship he had just left was sent to the Falklands. This would have been his first time seeing real action, and he was missing it. But, he said that you knew what was happening as you were getting the raw intelligence. Every morning there was a briefing with the 'top brass' and he was a part of that (and even got to meet the Queen, as part of a line-up, when she visited). He was also sent to Washington as the Americans gave us a huge amount of intelligence and he needed to talk to them about what was good and useful and what wasn't, which he found very interesting. At the start, the Americans only gave us intelligence they thought was relevant, as we did not have the resources to sift through all the unfiltered, raw intelligence. GCHQ in Cheltenham (with which David worked closely at this time) was used to analysing intelligence from Russia, but it took some time to learn to analyse what was now coming from South America. "We may

have missed stuff early on, but by the end it was working well.” David felt that if he couldn’t be on the front line, then JHQ was the best place to be, although that did mean there were times when he could see what was about to happen to those on the ground when they themselves were unaware of it, and there was nothing he could do to stop it.

After Northwood, he was sent out to a ship in the Persian Gulf, which he did not particularly want to do – he had already done that and had found it quite boring, as there wasn’t a lot to do and it was very hot, so there was a lot of sitting on deck getting sunburnt while the ship ploughed up and down. The odd BBQ on the beach was fine, though, and they did get sent away for R&R. After that, he came back to a training establishment and had to make the decision whether to sign up for another 5 years. He felt he would only be sent to the Gulf again and didn’t want to do that. They tried to persuade him that he would almost certainly be promoted to Warrant Officer, but he knew that it would take 3 years, and there was no guarantee, so he decided it was time to leave the Navy.

During his time in the Navy, he served on 2 aircraft carriers, 3 destroyers and 3 frigates in total. Leaving such a big organisation, having worked for it for such a long time, was a “horrible shock” and – as so many veterans find – it took time to adjust to civilian life.

*Interviewed by Julie Crabb and Alison Cananrd*

*Photo: David Hepper*

## NATURE NOTES

Here's a rhetorical question: Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard is a County Wildlife Site, so why isn't it just left to grow wild? What's with all this mowing, strimming and hedge-trimming that is happening? To answer this question fully, we have to begin a long, long time ago.

There is a myth that Britain was once fully covered in forest, before humans arrived to clear the trees. This is not wholly true. We know this because of the fossil remains of many types of grazing animals, including Elk and Aurochs (a now-extinct, giant wild cow). These grazing animals must have survived on swathes of grassland, and their grazing kept bushes and trees from encroaching. These grasslands were sunny places where flowers could grow, and they would have attracted lots of insects and birds. They were the origin of the meadow.

When humans began to develop agriculture, much of this grassland was retained for grazing sheep, cattle and goats. These animals performed the same function as the wild animals that preceded them: keeping the grass short and restricting the growth of encroaching bushes and trees. Farm labourers would also have played a part, by scything the meadow in early-autumn, and collecting it as winter food hay for their stock. This was how the traditional meadows of Britain and Europe became an established part of the landscape. Meadows exist through a relationship, of equilibrium, between humans, nature and beasts.

Meadows are no longer a typical aspect of the British landscape. Through building and through intensive agriculture, we have lost 97% of our flower-rich meadows over the last 80 years. In Bredfield, we are lucky to have a meadow that hasn't experienced intensive farming. Critically, the soil hasn't been 'improved' with fertiliser. In the words of Laurie Forsyth, of the Suffolk Flora Preservation Society, our meadow "is a wildlife treasure that has survived into the 21st Century". There are well over 100 species of flora in our meadow. As a community, we are very lucky to be custodians of this remarkable place. It deserves our care and protection.



There are no wild Aurochs, nor any farm animals grazing our meadow. Though some Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserves do engage in managed grazing by sheep or goats, this isn't really an option at Bredfield Meadow and Orchard: the boundaries are not fenced, and dogs (on leads) are walked there. So, it falls to human members of the community to perform the role of animals. The sound of strimming and mowing now replaces the sound of nibbling and chomping! Through this management, the flowers are not overwhelmed by grasses and shrubs, and the surrounding hedgerow (itself a wonderful resource for nature) doesn't encroach and take-over the meadow.

There, that was a long answer to our opening question. See you down at the meadow next Spring.

*Stewart Belfield*

<https://bredfieldwfv.org.uk>

*All photos by the author*



## SEASONAL RECIPE FROM THE VILLAGE SHOP

Now the cooler weather is here, we can enjoy vegetables as a warming dish! This recipe uses our lovely local Savoy cabbages, packed with Vitamin C, as well as B, A, and E, minerals and of course ,fibre.

### **-CREAMY CABBAGE BAKE**

Half a Savoy cabbage, shredded

2 eggs, beaten

150ml Greek yogurt

100g grated cheese, Edam or similar

25g brown breadcrumbs

2 tblsp grated Parmesan

Steam the cabbage for a few minutes, leaving it still crunchy. Mix together the eggs, yogurt and grated cheese, combine with the cabbage, and transfer to an ovenproof dish. Sprinkle on top the breadcrumbs and Parmesan, and bake in the oven at 190 C , gas Mark 5, for 15-20 minutes, until golden brown.

Even I can manage that one! A great way to get children to eat cabbage, and really very appetising.

All ingredients are available in the shop - the cabbages will be freshest on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Hard to believe it's squash season again! They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and all are full of vitamins A,B and C, iron, magnesium and potassium, and are high in fibre - as well as being a great ingredient for lots of recipes.

*Kate Pirkis*



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### St Andrew's, Bredfield

Rector: Rev Charles Trefusis

Churchwarden: Stephen Stammers

For all enquiries regarding St Andrew's, contact Steve Stammers on:

[churchwardens.bredfield@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardens.bredfield@gmail.com) or 07704 856005

St John's church office on 01394 383162 or [info@stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk](mailto:info@stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk)

For information about the Benefice of St John's and St Andrew's go to

[www.stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswoodbridge.org.uk)

**Bredfield Village Shop** opening times: Monday – Saturday 9.30-12.30

**Mobile Library: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 12.05-12.30** Village Hall car park  
[suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/mobile-library-stop/bredfield-village-hall/](http://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/mobile-library-stop/bredfield-village-hall/)

**Want to know what's happening in the village? Check out the website**

**<http://bredfield.onesuffolk.net>**

**For regular info updates- join our MailChimp email group. Email Anne Henderson - [henny@dircon.co.uk](mailto:henny@dircon.co.uk) and she will add you to the MailChimp list**

**Want to know about the Village Hall and Bredfield Wildlife Friendly Village – check out <https://www.bredfieldvillagehall.org.uk>**

**<https://bredfieldwfv.org.uk>**

### BREDFIELD PRAYER CIRCLE

This is a group of Parishioners united in prayer for the needs of our community. It operates in confidence, does not discuss your requests but simply includes your needs with their private prayer. Please give just a first name and enough details to make your request meaningful to those who will be praying with you. Please contact: Anne Ackerley 01394 384805 or Alison Cannard 01473 737707.

### PARISH GIVING SCHEME – St Andrew's

This is a simple and secure online way for churches to receive donations in support of their work and upkeep. It accepts both one-off donations and the setting up of a regular commitment. To make a donation please click on the QR code. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



**Please send contributions for the COMBINED DECEMBER/JANUARY LANTERN to Alison Cannard at [lantern.bredfield@gmail.com](mailto:lantern.bredfield@gmail.com) , 01473 737707 by 10<sup>th</sup> November.**

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S

|                                                                            |                                                                                               |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                                            | Holy Communion at:<br><br>Benefice Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at St John's at: | 9.15am<br><br><u>3.00pm</u> |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November<br>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY                      | Act of Remembrance and Remembrance Service                                                    | <u>10.50am</u>              |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                                           | Holy Communion<br>'How to worship'                                                            | 9.15am                      |
| Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November                                           | Service of the Word<br>'Make every effort'                                                    | 9.15am                      |
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November<br>ADVENT SUNDAY and<br>PATRONAL FESTIVAL | Service of the Word                                                                           | <u>10.00am</u>              |
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December                                            | Holy Communion<br>'The angels' plea for peace'                                                | 9.15am                      |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                                           | Service of the Word<br>'The shepherds' joy'                                                   | 9.15am                      |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December                                           | Carols by Candlelight                                                                         | <u>5.00pm</u>               |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup><br>December<br>CHRISTMAS EVE                    | Crib Service                                                                                  | <u>3.00pm</u>               |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December<br>CHRISTMAS DAY                        | Christmas Day Celebration<br>and Holy Communion                                               | <u>10.00am</u>              |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December                                           | No service at St Andrew's                                                                     | -                           |

## DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE

|                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November   | Mobile Library                |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November | Coffee and Cake morning       |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November | Coffee and Cake morning       |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November  | Carol Service choir rehearsal |
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November  | Christmas Fair                |