



Village Newsletter May 2026 Issue 293

If you have any updates for the May newsletter, please send to me by the 28th May. Warm wishes, Natalie
Nataliebrett64@gmail.com

Defibrillator code C159 X, located at the back of Sorrel Horse pub.



Shares for the Sorrel Horse are available to buy please contact Natalie on nataliebrett64@gmail.com for further information.

The Vicars Voice – May 2026

As I drive around the peninsula and beyond, I can see the world around me springing to life, and I simply delight in seeing the newborn lambs in the fields, reminding me of how hard our farmers are working to care for more

than 15 million ewes preparing to give birth in the UK. It also gives me food for thought as I think fondly of the other flock which I have a duty to care for across the Peninsula. I have to admit, following the business of Holy Week and Easter, there is a moment “quiet” as we have some respite from major festivals until Pentecost, (May 24 th) although we now turn our attentions to other tasks, especially our APCMs.

However, there is another important festival that can often be overlooked, The Ascension of Jesus, (May 14 th).

At the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in North Norfolk, there is a chapel dedicated to the Ascension, which features two feet sticking out from beneath a plaster cloud on the ceiling! One of the first things I always do when I visit the shrine is to see whether Jesus has made it through the cloud yet!!

Of course, the plaster feet are just a pictorial representation of something impossible to represent. The theologian N.T. Wright comments:

“Just as we speak of the sun “rising”, even though we know that the earth is turning in relation to the sun, so ancient Jews were comfortable with the language of heavenly ascent without supposing that their God, was physically situated a few thousand feet above the surface of the earth... “

The account of the Ascension of Jesus in Luke and Acts might seem very “matter of fact”, but that is because we must use language such as ‘up’ and ‘down’ to make sense of it. The reality is that Jesus was there with his disciples one moment, visible, tangible, and the next, he wasn’t.

The physical presence of Jesus was removed from them, and an exchange was taking place. He was received into heaven, and in return they would shortly receive the promise of his presence in a different form, the Holy Spirit.

So, what does this vision of Jesus “going up” to heaven mean for us today? Well, with Jesus no longer physically around, God’s primary means of working in His world would now be through us. Although we may wish to have known Jesus physically, it is not an experience we need.

Both The Ascension, which occurs 40 days after the Resurrection, and Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit represented by a dove, 10 days after The Ascension and celebrated as the birthday of the church) mean that God is present with us in a tangibly different way. And yet it can be hard to describe our experience of the risen and ascended Christ. So, how do we describe it? I think the nearest thing to describe this, is to say that I know I am never alone; and that sense of divine presence is always alongside me and within me, day by day. Having just celebrated Easter, we have acknowledged that Jesus Christ is risen and alive, and at Pentecost we celebrate this wonderful news as we acknowledge the sending of His Holy Spirit.

In a world which often seems frightening, with all its problems of conflict, economic and social broken ness, my prayer for everyone is that you may be assured of that profound ‘never aloneness’ day by day, and let us say the prayer of St Richard of Chichester with confidence:

Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen
With love and blessings, Rev Mandy xx

Shottisham WI.

Saturday May 2nd 10am to 1pm.

Our annual Plant and Cake sale will be held on Saturday May 2nd from 10am to 1pm at the WI Trust Hall. Any donated items for the general raffle, gardening raffle, tombola, plants and produce or cakes to sell would be gratefully received.

Tables inside the hall for £10.00 will be available to hire, per trestle table, to sell crafts etc. Table numbers limited. All proceeds will help the running costs of the hall and go towards our new kitchen project.

Please come and join us for a hot drink, glass of squash, selection of cakes, sausage rolls etc and enjoy a good old-fashioned natter and catch up.

We look forward to welcoming you.

There will also be a collection box on the day for tinned and dried food, toiletries and pet food. These will be sent to the Food Bank at the Salvation Army, Woodbridge, who we support.

If you would like to join Shottisham WI, this year's annual membership is £54.00, starting on April 1st. We enjoy a monthly meeting, with a variety of enjoyable speakers or activities, walks, garden visits, lunches, theatre visits, outings, a book club and more. New members are always welcome, or come as a guest for your first meeting, to see what we are all about and if you would like to join.

For any questions regarding the Plant and cake sale or WI membership, please contact Diane Fleming dillypal@outlook.com or tel. 01394411870.

What's on...

Car Boot Sale on Sunday 3 May from 10am at Sutton Memorial Hall IP12 3JQ.
£6 per pitch on the day or £5 if booked in advance. To book phone 01394 411793 or 410279 or email susancollins0911@gmail.com
Teas, coffees and bacon rolls will be on sale in the Memorial Hall.

SPRING MARKET

Saturday 23 May, 10am-12.30pm
Sutton Memorial Hall, IP12 3JQ

Cakes and Bakes, Plant Stall, Raffle, Win a hamper, wonderful selection of local craft stalls, Refreshments and much more

Hope to see you there!!

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HOLLESLEY

HOLLESLEY SINGERS Present

'A Concert for SPRING'

Saturday 16th May

at 7 pm

Refreshments. Raffle

Retiring Collection in Aid of All Saints' Church

CLOTHING EXCHANGE/HELP YOURSELF

SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026, 2.00PM – 4.00PM

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HOLLESLEY, IP12 3RE

COMPLIMENTARY TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS AVAILABLE

The scheme is totally free and within reason.

Please feel free to bring/take, or both, clothes in good condition.

We are accepting any Spring/Summer clothes only at this session.

We do not take school uniform for all schools as some have their own recycle schemes, however, Hollesley Primary does not have such a scheme. We are therefore, able to accept and offer Hollesley Primary School uniforms.

If you are not interested in our Clothes Exchange, just pop in for a cuppa and a natter. ALL WELCOME

Any queries or feedback would be gratefully received too.

allsaintshollesley@gmail.com

HOLLESLEY GARDENING CLUB - we meet in Hollesley Village Hall @ 7.30pm.

On **16th May** we have a stall at Hollesley Artisan Market at the village hall.

Our speaker on **28th May** is Suffolk Prickles who will be giving a presentation on Hedgehog friendly gardening. Meet in Hollesley Village Hall @ 7.30pm. If you would like to come along as a guest, it's £5 on the night or why not join us?

4th MAY THERE WILL BE AN EVENT AT **ALDERTON RECREATION GROUND** INCLUDING STALLS BETWEEN **11AM-4PM**

Message from Abi Hopkins – Senior Protection Advisor (FCA Regulated)

07817034910

Umbrella Financial

Living and working here in Shottisham and Sutton, I truly understand how important it is to feel secure — not just in our homes, but in our futures too.

As a Senior Protection Advisor with Umbrella Financial, I specialise in helping individuals and families put the right protection in place, giving peace of mind when it matters most. Whether it's protecting your income, supporting your loved ones, or planning ahead, my role is to make the process simple, clear and tailored entirely to you.

What makes Umbrella Financial different is that I have access to the whole of the market. This means I'm not tied to one provider — I can compare a wide range of insurers to find the most suitable cover. I also have access to exclusive products and offers, often allowing me to improve on both price and level of benefit, even for those who already have policies in place.

I can help arrange:

- Life Insurance
- Critical Illness Cover
- Income Protection
- Private Health Insurance
- Injury Protection
- Wills and Trusts

Everything I do is personalised — no two households are the same, and your protection shouldn't be either.

Being part of this community means a great deal to me, and I would love more people locally to know about Umbrella Financial and how I can help.

If you would like a friendly, no-obligation chat or a review of your current cover, I'm always happy to help.

 www.umbrella-financial.co.uk

