

## Sancroft Benefice service rota for December 2023

<b>Week 1 Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday</b> 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-end	9.30am	Metfield	The Gathering
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Mendham	Village Service
	10.30am	Stradbroke	Holy Communion
<b>Week 2 Sunday 10th Advent 2</b> 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	8.30am	Withersdale	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Weybread	Family Service
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Informal Worship
	10.30am	Metfield	Village Service with carols
<b>Week 3 Sunday 17th Advent 3</b> 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	4.30pm	Stradbroke	Carol Service
	4.30pm	Mendham	Village Carol Service
<b>Monday 18th</b>	7.00pm	Withersdale	Carol service
<b>Week 4 Christmas Eve</b> Romans 16:25-17 Luke 1:26-38 HC John 1:1-14	4.00pm	Metfield	Christingle
	5.00pm	Fressingfield	Carol Service
	6.30pm	Weybread	Carol Service
	11.15pm	Stradbroke	Holy Communion
<b>Christmas Day Mon 25th</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14	8.30am	Withersdale	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Metfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Mendham	Holy Communion
<b>Week 5 Sunday 31st Christmas 1</b> Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	10.30am	Weybread	Holy Communion

**Village prayers** \* Mondays, 10am, The Rectory, Stradbroke

\* Wednesdays, 10am in the Alfred Munnings \* Thursdays, 9.30am, Fressingfield

\* 4th Thursday of each month, 4pm in Metfield church **Not Christmas week!**

### Parish church contacts

Fressingfield	Malcolm Wood	01379 388981	
Mendham	Toby Hart	01379 854980,	Dawn Dawson 01379 855440
Metfield	Judy Game	01379 588017,	Gail Chilcott 01986 785218
Stradbroke	Peter Chetwynd	01379 384069	
Weybread	Mike Nott	01379 853889,	Paula Robinson 01379 852110
Withersdale	Revd Susan	01379 388493	



# Sancroft Benefice Churches

comprising the parishes of  
Fressingfield, Metfield,  
Mendham, Stradbroke,  
Weybread, Withersdale



## December 2023



### From the Rector.....

There are lots of different services and events this month as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Please pray that we will see more people in our services and events, pray that they will see something of the love of God in and through us, his children.

I pray that the season will be joyful, but of course there will be those who will struggle with the celebrations because they have lost a loved one or relationships or finances are strained (see the blue Christmas service). Please keep your eye out for those who are struggling in any way and ask God to help you be sensitive to their needs. Sometimes all we need is for someone to acknowledge our pain.

Unlike the world which brings the seasons closer and closer (Easter Eggs in our local shop!), the Church celebrates Christmas until Candlemas, February 2nd, when we will be having an evensong to mark the occasion. So, although I am not advocating to keep the Christmas decorations up until then, let's hold on to the sense of celebration.

God bless  
Revd Susan

### If you would like to speak to someone, please contact:

Revd Susan Loxton (Rector), 01379 388493, [revloxton@gmail.com](mailto:revloxton@gmail.com)  
Revd Peter Schwier (Assistant Priest), 07903 215889  
Revd Diane Ekins-Powell (Curate and Local Minister for Mendham),  
01986 788750, [diane1961erica@gmail.com](mailto:diane1961erica@gmail.com)  
Maria Price (Licensed Lay Minister), [123onlymaria@gmail.com](mailto:123onlymaria@gmail.com)  
Benefice administrator, Virginia Skoyles, [sancroftbeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sancroftbeneficeoffice@gmail.com)

## DECEMBER 2023

**Every Tuesday Coffee Break**, 10.30am  
Sancroft Hall. All welcome. Bring friends.

**Every Thursday Playtime Toddler Group**, 9.30am, Sancroft Hall, during term time. Contact [nettie@blackmatrix.co.uk](mailto:nettie@blackmatrix.co.uk)

**Sunday 3rd Lighting of the Christmas tree** outside Stradbroke church, 4pm, Christmas music by Stradbroke Radio, mulled wine and fellowship.

**Also Cook@church**, 5 to 7pm, first Sunday, termtime, in Metfield Village Hall. Young people come together to meet, prepare, cook and share a meal. A warm welcome awaits. (Then next 7th Jan '24)  
e: [carolynpage10@me.com](mailto:carolynpage10@me.com)

**Thursday 7th Mothers' Union** Advent Service and tea, 2.30pm, Sancroft Hall. All very welcome.

**Friday 8th** Stradbroke schools in church for their Christmas Service, 1.30pm.

**Saturday 9th The Christmas Community Café at Metfield Village Hall** with stalls and raffles in aid of the church and village hall, 10am to 12 noon.

**Also Saturday 9th Fressingfield Christmas Market**, 10am to 12. Around 30 stalls with fresh produce, crafts and gifts. Featuring the school choir and Father Christmas. Followed at 12 noon by the RBL Christmas draw. Still stall space available. We would be grateful for bottles for the church tombola bottle stall. Full, new bottles please - shampoo, cooking sauce, hand lotion, wine, champagne! Collection box in the church. [fressproduce@btinternet.com](mailto:fressproduce@btinternet.com)

## Carol Services around the benefice

**Sunday 10th**, 10.30am, Village Service with carols at Metfield

**Sunday 17th**, 4.30pm, Carol Service at Stradbroke  
Also 4.30pm, traditional Carol Service for Mendham village with refreshments afterwards

**Monday 18th**, 7pm, Carol Service at Withersdale

### Christmas Eve

4pm, Christingle at Metfield

5pm, Candlelit Carol Service at Fressingfield

6pm, Candlelit Carol Service at Weybread

11.15pm, Midnight Communion at Stradbroke



**Tuesday 12th Crib Service** for tots, parents and grandparents, 10am in Fressingfield church.

**Tuesday 19th** Fressingfield School in church for their Christmas Service, 9.30am.

**Also** Join us to sing **Carols at Coffee Break**, Sancroft Hall, from 10.30am. All welcome, not just regulars!

**Wednesday 20th Carol singing around Fressingfield**, 6pm, starting at the new Baptist Chapel and finishing with a drink at The Swan. Contact Rosemary Cox on 01379 588175 with any queries.

**Friday 22nd Mendham Christmas Singalong** on the village green, 5pm, with guitarists. Refreshments provided in the pub afterwards.

### Saturday 23rd



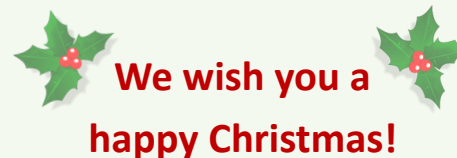
**Blue Christmas** – a short service, 3pm in Mendham church, with readings and music, for those feeling sad at this time, followed by refreshments.

### Fressingfield church is planning to flood the village with angels this

Advent as a message of love and hope to all. Thank you to all those who came to our angel painting workshop in November or who took angels home to paint. Please remember to hang up your angels in your windows, on a hedge or bush to remind us all of the message of Christmas. Should you like an angel to hang up, please contact Rosemary Cox on 01379 588175.

### Keep in touch....

Check out our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sancroftbeneficechurches) page:  
[facebook.com/sancroftbeneficechurches](https://www.facebook.com/sancroftbeneficechurches)  
For email newsletters from the diocese, email [communications@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:communications@cofesuffolk.org)  
*If you would like this newsletter by email, please send your email to Virginia at [sancroftbeneficechurches@gmail.com](mailto:sancroftbeneficechurches@gmail.com)*



We recommend that you sign up to follow Bishop Mike's Advent course.....  
Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices.



From Tuesday 28 Nov, 7pm to 8.30pm, online. Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer (eg praise, intercession...), Christian postures (e.g. peace, joy...) and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tues 28 Nov, Tues 5, Thurs 14 and Tues 19 Dec. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome!  
Book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drawing-near-to-god-in-advent-prayer-postures-and-practices-tickets-711023920687?aff=oddtcreator>

**Samaritans - It's alright to ask for help**  
Tel: 116123

**Refuge, against domestic violence**  
Tel: 0808 2000 247

**ChildLine**  
Tel: 0800 1111

**Waveney Foodbank**  
Tel: 07484 394749

If you can, please make extra donations, to the Foodbank, either at Fressingfield church where we have a collecting box, Stradbroke Rectory, or when you do your supermarket shop. Tinned and dry foods along with jams (not home-made) and pasta sauces are always welcome.