



"The Newsletter"

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL Sunday 6 December 2025



It all has value

As we move into December, I was pondering the 'Bible in a Year' readings. Each week Rob sends out emails to 36 addresses – and I know that some people are sharing their emails with spouses and friends, so this number isn't all who are going through the bible this year. It's been great to have conversations about parts that people haven't read before, to see people excited about diving into God's word. But if you are following the reading pattern, I wonder if, like me, you wonder whether there still seems to be a lot of bible and not a lot of year left? I'm sure Rob has it in hand and we will get there, even if the 31st December is a few more chapters than usual.

This week we have looked at Corinthians. And I was struck by 1 Corinthians 15:58. Perhaps because I am reading in a different translation to my usual reading (EasyEnglish Bible 2024. Designed for those learning English or speaking it as a foreign language). But this verse jumped out at me.

Do not let anything move you away from your faith. Continue to work hard as you serve the Lord. You know that whatever you do for him will not be useless. This hit home more than a tradition version that talks about 'our labour is not in vain'. When we are working with God, whatever we do with him has value. We may not feel that the things we do make a difference to the kingdom, but God does. God is pleased to see us working with him and, although we may never see the results of what we do, all of our work with God has an effect. I find that really reassuring and I hope you too can use this as motivation to keep going and working with God.

Toby

PS. The bible in a year is running again next year but in a different order of reading through. If you want to join in, or more details, contact Rob rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk



Next Pop-Up Shop

14 December 11.30- 12.00pm

@ St Michael's
See updates inside.



Sunday 7 December

9.30am Breakfast - St Michael's - See notice inside

11.00am - Holy Communion - St Mary's

Wednesday 10 December

10.00am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

Sunday 14 December

10.00am - Holy Communion- St Michaels

3.00pm - Advent Carols - St John's

Monday 15 December

7.00pm - Carols on The Square

Sunday 21 December

10.00am - Morning Worship

11.00am - Holy Communion - St Mary's

6.30pm - 9 Lessons - St Michael's

Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

10.00am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

4.00pm - Crib Service - St Michael's

11.30 - Midnight - Midnight Communion - St

Michael's

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am- Holy Communion - St Michael's

Sunday 28 December

10.00am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

https://en-gb.facebook.com/

pages/category/Church/Martlesham-Benefice-392285008216057/

https://www.youtube.com/@martleshambenefice

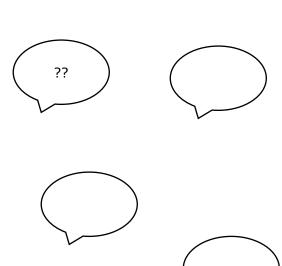
Christmas is Coming

We will be producing a "Bumper" edition for the weekend of Sunday 21 December!

- Greeting for, or to, anyone you wish!
- Prayers to celebrate Christmas or give thanks for 2025!
- Christmas poems
- Update on any groups over 2025 and ideas for 2026

Happy Christmas to all our church friends. Simon and Liz













Opportunities for Prayer

Breakfast Church is on Sunday the 7th of December



As a Christmas special, we are going to be having Sausage and Bacon baps, we're also inviting all our Pop-Up Shop customers to come along as well. Please see the flyer for details. There is no need to book, but if you know that you are going to be coming please can you let me know so I have a vague idea of numbers.

Rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk



Opportunities for Prayer contd.

Weekly Morning Prayer.

Every Monday, we will meet for Morning Prayer at St Marys. Starting at 8.30am, we will meet and pray together using the Common Worship Daily Prayer books, if you have the app for your phone you can use that. Morning Prayer is different to a 'normal' prayer meeting as there is a set pattern of liturgy and readings, if you've never seen it before, click this link and you'll get the idea. https://daily.commonworship.com/

Please do ask if you have any questions about how it all works, we'd be more than happy to talk it all through.

Toby & Rob

Prayer Diary for December 2025

December

- 5 for farmers and growers
- 6 for our volunteer Community Responders
- 7 Come Jesus, show us the way
- 8 for those suffering from addictions
- 9 for food bank volunteers and guests
- 10 for the residents of Crown Close
- 11 for better human rights throughout the world
- 12 for all who work for peace
- 13 for those leading Christmas services
- 14 Come Jesus, fill us with joy
- 15 for Carols in the Square this evening
- 16 for those facing their first Christmas alone
- 17 for the residents of De Brink on The Green
- 18 for those seeking shelter and rest
- 19 for all retail workers at this busy time
- 20 that the good news of Jesus' birth may be celebrated
- 21 Come Jesus, be with us
- 22 for NHS workers on duty over Christmas

Martlesham Benefice - Prayer Chain.

If you've never heard of a prayer chain before, it's a group of people within the Church who take on a pastoral responsibility to pray for people that have an unexpected / urgent need or emergency. The way that it will work, should there be a situation where you would like the Church to be praying, either for you or a situation, you can contact either myself or Toby. We will then pass on the request to the rest of the prayer chain who will, at their earliest opportunity, offer prayers to God. All prayer requests to the Prayer Chain will be treated as confidential unless you say otherwise.

If you would like the Prayer Chain to pray for you, email Toby or myself, or in 'life or death situations' you can also call us so that we can respond quickly.

Please also pray, and give thanks for, the Prayer Chain as it can be quite a daunting responsibility to pray into emergency situations.

Rob. rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk 07359 463312

Toby.
Toby@martleshamcofe.org.uk
01473 612659

Reflecting with God, monthly group, 7pm on Zoom.

Reflecting with God meets online on the third Sunday evening of each month, when we gather together with God for some quiet time and reflection. We don't have a set format, but a typical meeting starts with an introduction then a short time of silence to bring ourselves into God's presence.

The materials for reflection are then introduced, and we spend a longer time in quiet to reflect on these individually. After this we start the meeting again and there is an opportunity to share anything we'd like of what we've heard God saying to us, then we close with prayer. All are welcome, to join email info@martleshamcoe.org.uk for the Zoom link or contact Toby.

Carolyn Smith

Opportunities for Prayer contd.

Friends we will miss

Janet Baxter. Janet was a stalwart of the lunch club, helping to register people, she was a real person of prayer and on Thursday 27th went home to God she had loved for a long time.

Sunday morning 'Zoom' Coffee invitation

Would you like the chance on Sunday morning to meet up with others online for a chat? Our Zoom coffee chat will be running this Sunday at 11am, or as soon as the online service finishes if that is after 11am. Would you be interested in joining us? To get the Zoom link please email info@martleshamcofe.org.uk. Looking forward to seeing you there! Carolyn Smith'

Reading the whole Bible in a year!

In 2026 we are going to be reading the whole Bible in a year...again! This time though, we will have daily readings from the Old and New Testament passage, as well as a Psalm or Proverb. Each week I will email out the readings with a video or two to help us think through what we're reading, as well as the occasional hymn and song that links to the passages. If you would like to join in the 2026 read through, please email me and I'll add you to the new mailing list.

Rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk



What's on! - Diaries of prayer and activities

Diary of Activities

(for details see inside)

- 6 December Christmas with Martlesham Brass
- 6 December Gyppeswyk Signers
- 14 December CLO Concert in aid of Home Start
- 18 December Tea Coffee cakes and carols
- 20 December Martlesham Brass, A Christmas Concert

Diary of Prayers

(for details see inside)

15 December – Carols on the Square Recurring

- Weekly Monday Moring of Prayer
- Weekly Brightwell New Home Group
- Weekly Broom Tree Café
- Weekly Friends on Friday
- Weekly Reading the Bible in Chronological order
- Weekly The Toddler Group
- Weekly Sunday after church Zoom Coffee
- Weekly Sunday morning Zoom coffee morning
- 3rd, 27th and 29thh Nov Church Working
- Monthly Lunch Club2nd Wednesday of each month
- Monthly Reflecting with God on Zoom 3rd Sunday of the Month at 7.00pm -
- Monthly 1st Tuesday A Day of prayer and fasting
- Monthly Men's breakfast



Opening times on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9am -12pm.

Dates for your Diary - Tea, Coffee, Cakes and Carols is once again taking place in the Runway **Thursday 18th December from 2pm-4pm**.

Tickets will be on sale in the Runway from Tuesday 18th November. Please, come along and join us for what is always a fun festive afternoon.







Coffee off the Wall

Ask for a 'Coffee off the Wall' and, with no questions asked, you will be given a drink. Toby

Join us in the Runway this December and enjoy a Festive Treat. New for December is Spiced Chai Latte, a warming spiced milky drink with a dusting of Cinnamon. Carol and Lynne have been busy making Christmas cakes for you to enjoy, we have indulgent Luxury Hot Chocolate served with Cream and Marshmallows, and Christmas Tea (what I call, Christmas in a cup), along with Gingerbread Latte and Mince Pies. We look forward to seeing you

Let us know of your notices or events!

Please send any articles, diary dates, prayers, thoughts or anything you may wish to share with our community.

newsletter@martleshamcofe.org.uk

The Toddler Group – has Started! 9.30am On Thursday @ St Michael's

Why not come along to our "Toddler Group".

Everyone seems to enjoy it and have a great time and there are lots of conversations happening and new connections being made.

Please continue to pray for this new ministry and if you'd be willing to volunteer occasionally, particularly in the kitchen, do get in touch.

Emma (read the news article from the diocese here)

CHURCH WORK MORNINGS. St. Mary's

St John's

On **Saturday 6th December** from 1-3pm we will be sweeping leaves, cleaning the church and tidying the churchyard. All helpers welcome. Brooms and equipment provided.

Thank you

Lvnne James

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club had a visit from the food safety and hygiene inspector recently and were delighted when he awarded us 5 Star Rating again. The team work hard and take great care to keep up our very high standards. The Lunch Club continues to flourish and at the moment is full. I will start a waiting list for any more guests who would like to join us.

Mary 01473 623752

Help required

"Niluka and her family have a close family friend in Sri Lanka, called Amila, who has sadly been diagnosed with leukaemia, and is in hospital there. We would like to support them by helping to raise funds towards the cost of his treatment, which is very expensive. If you would like to make a donation towards this, please could you either give it to Chris Howard, or donate through the card machine and let him know.

As Niluka says, even a small amount translates into a lot of rupees and makes a difference. I'm sure they would also value your prayers for his recovery."

Thanks

Christine

Martlesham and Brightwell – Parish Giving Scheme

Brightwell PCC has recently joined the Parish Giving Scheme. Martlesham has been a member for a number of years. Instead of giving in cash at one of our churches or setting up a standing order with your bank you can set up a regular payment by direct debit, via the Parish Giving Scheme. This is normally collected at the beginning of each month. Each year PGS will contact you to see if you are happy for your gift to be increased in line with inflation – and you have the choice to review your giving and change it, if you want to. If you are a taxpayer, then the gift aid can be claimed and PGS do this directly from the government.

The advantage for each PCC is the giving and the tax is received regularly each month and without having to complete a Gift Aid tax claim. The same money given but a lot less work for the treasurer. If you would like to join the scheme you can setup a payment by either:

- 1.Telephoning PGS on 03330 021271
- 2.Scanning one of the QR codes below for either Martlesham or Brightwell
- 3. Filling in an application form available in each church and sending it to:

Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD

4. Give online www.parishgiving.org.uk





Martlesham PCC QR Code

Brightwell PCC QR Code

Women Together is a group for all women in the benefice, to build us up in fellowship and strengthen diverse friendships and support networks. Please feel free to bring a friend if you think it would be appropriate. There will be an informal talk from a Christian lady at most events.

Lots of people had great fun at our October singalong session. Thanks to Emma for organising and leading that so well.

Monday 8th December
Black Tiles
Christmas meal out!
A firm favourite in our calendar.
Time to celebrate with the wonderful friends we've made at
Women Together

Monday 26 January 2026
7.30pm-9.30pm St Michael's Church
Scatterories

A new year fun game. Do bring "extra to requirement" Christmas gifts for prizes for others!

Please contact Tamsin – ttjxtate@aol.com, Tim Howell, Di Russ, Helen Davey or Emma Allinson for more information.





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Prayers for the Week

We pray and give thanks to the first steps towards peace in the Gaza war. Hopefully with USA driving this forward this is the very first but positive steps to long term peace. We pray, that for whatever reason, that both Jews and Muslims in the UK will not be harassed or victimised for what is being undertaken by all sides in the region. We pray that President Trump will not lose focus on the Middle East, but also that he can constructively work for a fair and lasting peace in Ukraine.

We pray and hope that the war in Ukraine can be brought to a lasting peace, following what appears to be a further crisis in finding a resolution. We specifically pray that a lasting ceasefire can be brought into place so the final negotiations can be undertaken without any further bloodshed.

We Pray for all those affected by Hurricane Melissa and all other natural disasters. We pray that we do not forget those abroad who are suffering, when we reduce our national foreign aid.

We pray that the enquiry into Child Sexual abuse will soon be able to confirm its chair and start their work. We pray for all the victims.

Pray for all those affected by the crisis in the criminal justice service. From the victims of crime, the police, the lawyers, the Home Office and Justice Department, those working or volunteering within prison, those running the custardy suites and the like.

We pray also for the social and mental health services, who are desperately working within the system.

Finally, we pray for the criminals, who range from very bad people to those society has mistreated and they then sink into criminality.

We pray that the country as a whole can come up with solutions and remove it from political defensive postering and easy political point scoring. "Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime."

We pray that the Budget, last week, will be seen as a glimmer of hope for many in our society and wonder if other alternatives would marginalise many even further. We pray that it has brought many children out of poverty, given them hope and given them a good start in life, and that they will then seek to benefit society as a whole.

In our thoughts and prayers, we pray:

- For our local and national community
- For our Church and it's leaders
- For those close to us
- Pray for the King & The Royal Family
- For all politicians and public decision makers
- For all those seriously affected by the current financial situation
- For the sick, and those needing our help.
- For the swift outcomes of recent Public Enquiries
- For those affected by Climate Change & Natural Disasters

Prayers for the UK

- We pray for all the recently deceased: some who pass away peacefully after leading long and fulfilling lives, others who are taken too early. We especially pray for the family and friends left to mourn and remember.
- We pray for King Charles & Queen Camilla, and their continued support for the sick.
- We pray for Prince William, Kate and the children as she continues to require support after her recent treatment.

- We pray that the recent governments spending plans may in fact bring better security, better health and prosperity to all those in the UK.
- We pray that the difficult financial decisions the Government are proposing to Social Benefits Support and their subject review and delays, are made with care and compassion to both the citizens and mindful of the supporting taxpayers.
- We pray that, for the sake of political dogma and unrealistic election promises, the very poorest in our community will not be forgotten.
- We pray for all immigrants, whether legal or illegal, that they
 will be treated with humanity and that while the politicians work
 out how to balance and resolve some very difficult issues,
 others may not exacerbate the situation for political gains.
- We pray that mental health can be improved, to safeguard the general public and those who are suffering from mental health conditions.
- We pray that our politicians can further reflect on the difficulties exposed in the debate on end-of-life care and the possible choice of self-administered end of life.
- We pray and give thanks and praise to all those organisations and individuals in our local area and community.
- We pray for all people who are on benefits, often navigating complex applications when many are at a very low ebb, also all those who work in customer facing offices having to explain why some applications are not within the rules.
- We give thanks for all the time and energy provided by so many volunteers, who give up their time to help and support others, whether it is one act of kindness or a whole year of giving.
- We for Dame Sally Mullally as she prepares to be inaugurated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.
- We give thanks for all our local Benefice community activities.
 Toby in his role as Assistant Rural Dean, and Rob with helping Toby in developing our Benefice ministry. We pray and give thanks to our own PCC, and the work and effort they give to our community.
- We give thanks to Jo and all her helpers who support the Runway and all the people who enjoy its hospitality especially on the 10th anniversary of The Runway. We give thanks for the

- work of Emma and the Toddler Group. We give thanks to all the groups noted in this issue of the Newsletter and all others that are not mentioned this week.
- We pray for and give thanks to all who manage St Michael's. It is regularly commented upon as being a wonderful facility, which is shared with so many local groups for their own community activities.
- We pray for the government, who are having to navigate us through "The New World Order" recognising that the recent reduction in foreign aid can be reinstated as soon as possible. We also pray that any cuts requiring to be made to finance defence and now the economic crisis generated by the USA, can be carefully thought through and reinstated at the earliest opportunity.
- We pray for all our elected representatives, our MP, County and District councillors and our parish councillors, for the time and effort they put in.

Prayers for the rest of the world

- We pray that our government and others around the world will manage President Trump with care but firmness, particularly if he tries to impose his will on others through economic or physical force, and that Making America Great Again does not have to be supported with physical and/or economic violence.
- We pray that the new alliances involving China, Russia, North Korea, India and many others with their political, financial and military strength will be exercised for the benefit of the whole world.
- We pray for all people in counties or areas involved in armed conflicts living in especially Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Isreal and many in the central African States and in the middle East.
- We pray for all immigrants throughout the world, that they are protected from political violence.
- We pray and give thanks to all those in the world who are genuinely trying to improve people's lives.
- We pray for all the "little people" in the world with no voice, who should not be further estranged in the interest of nations or individuals' personal wealth or influence.

Supporting Local Charities

"Do you have a local event, charities or the like you would like the readers to support?"

Just drop an email to

newsletter@martleshamcofe.org.uk or call Richard on 07771 877545





Supporting Local Charities Contd



Pre-Spring Cleaning!

John Hammond, a member of our community, and an Ambassador for The St Elizabeth Hospice is happy to collect unwanted household articles suitable for selling on behalf of St Elizabeth's Hospice John is very happy to talk to you and see if The St Elizabeth Hospice can benefit from them. Call John on 07717171568.

FIND Foodbank

Thank you for so many continuing donations to the foodbank. They can be left in the box in The Rectory porch. The latest up-date list is as below but please no fresh fruit and vegetables unless you take them directly to 5 Braziers Wood Road Ipswich IP3 0SP 2.30-4.30 They deliver 120-150 parcels per week and are always in need of more delivery drivers. https://www.findipswich.org.uk/



HOME START In Suffolk

Home-Start in Suffolk is the county's largest family support charity. Our vision is that every child in Suffolk is given the best start in life because of the love, support and guidance they receive from their parents, guardians or the people performing the role of their parents.

www.homestartinsuffolk.org

Contact 01473621104

headoffice@homestartinsuffolk.org

Supporting Local Charities

- St Elizabeth Hospice John is an ambassador for the St Elizabeth's Hospice, and he can act as a link for the community to this great cause. People can contact John on 07717171568 or email on jimghammond@msn.com.
- Footsteps christine.pinder@btinternet.com.

Do you have a Charity or local event you wish to publish?

Contact us via our email.

Tools with a Mission

Is an Ipswich based Charity, that take tools, sewing/knitting machines, fabric, haberdashery and computers for refurbishing. They send out around 24 containers a year filled with over 300 tonnes of tools. If you have anything you think could be of use.

Please contact - Pauline and Paul Jordan on 01473 625061

Supporting Local events

"Do you have a local event, or the like, you would like the readers to support?"

Just drop an email to

newsletter@martleshamcofe.org.uk or call Richard on 07771 877545



1st Martlesham Scout Group

Scout Christmas Post 2025



Postage is 40p per card

Postage should be placed in a separate envelope. Please write your post code and house name/number on the back of each envelope.

We deliver to the following areas only.

Ipswich IP1 to IP5 inc. Martlesham & Martlesham Heath, Kesgrave, Rushmere, Pinewood, Claydon, Bramford, Sproughton, Gt Blakenham, Barham, Henley, Westerfield, Witnesham and Tuddenham. Grundisburgh, The Bealings, Culpho, Playford. Felixstowe, Walton, Kirton, Falkenham, Trimley St Mary and Trimley St Martin

Check Addresses online www.scoutspostipswich.org.uk

Post Boxes open from Tuesday 25th November at :

Blacktiles Lane Post Office, Martlesham
Duncans Butchers & Bakery, The Square, Martlesham Heath
The Runway Cafe, St Michael & All Angels, Martlesham Heath

Last posting date Tuesday 9th December

Delivered by local Scout Groups by 24th December.

Save money and help your local Scout Group.

Thank you.

Gippeswyk Singers

with The Dargason Ensemble

Conducted by Janette Ruocco

Gloria

An afternoon with Antonio Vivaldi



Saturday 6th December 2025 At 4pm

St Michael's Church, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3PL

Tickets

£15 on the door or £12 in advance.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/gippeswyk-singers

or telephone: 07510 612672









Christmas with Martlesham Brass

Coffee & Carols

Saturday 6th December 10.00 -12.00
Admission Free

Christmas Concert

Saturday 20th December 7.00pm

Tickets £5.00
(Primary school age children free)
www.martleshambrass.co.uk
07544 962205 or on the door
both at
St Michael's Church Centre

Martlesham Heath IP5 3PL

Registered Charity No.1100922. Visit our website www.martleshambrass.co.uk

CLO String Orchestra

Conductor Jan Rowe



Christmas Concert

Blake, Elgar, Nielsen, Warlock

St John's School Choir - conductor Danielle Freestone

St Michael & All Angels
The Drift, Martlesham IP5 3PL

4pm

Sunday December 14th 2025

FREE ADMISSION with a retiring collection for Homestart







Saturday 10 January 2026, 7.30pm **Ipswich Corn Exchange** King Street, Ipswich IP1 1DH

For full details of the programme, visit the Trianon website at www.tmg.org.uk Tickets from £15, students and under-18s from £7 (incl. a £2 per ticket booking fee) https://www.ipswichtheatres.co.uk

Trianon Music Group is a member of Ipswich Arts Association and Making Music Reg charity no. 276715









Homegroups – a chance to grow in God together.

Homegroups met at various times and places during the week. There are spaces for new members. If you would like to be involved, please speak to Toby.

toby@martleshamcofe.org.uk



The Pastoral team are always available, please feel free to call if you need any of them.

The pastoral care team If you would like a visit from the pastoral team, or you would like to let us know about a pastoral situation for prayer please get in touch. Christine can be contacted on christine.pinder@btinternet.com or more details. 07555 748345.

Facebook page Google Martlesham Benefice - Home | Facebook and follow the link.

The Newsletter is published on the web on Fridays, why not get an advance read by going to http://www.martleshamcofe.org.uk/church-newsletter
If you have a prayer, you think others would like to share, please send me a copy to newsletter@martleshamcofe.org.uk or 01473 624160 *Richard Boother*.

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