

Constable Country Benefice



St Mary's, East Bergholt



St Michael's, Brantham



St Mary's, Bentley



St Mary's, Tattingstone

Four Parishes - One Benefice – Stronger in Unity

4th January 2026
Happy New Year

Brantham

6.30pm Moving Up Club

East Bergholt

8am BCP Service (Rev Chris)

Tattingstone

10.30am Connect

Connect: a service for all ages.
The best of traditional and new,
and to being all together.

Reading for Connect: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 60.1–6
Psalm 72. [1–9] 10–15
Ephesians 3.1–12
Matthew 2.1–12

Next Sunday
11th January

East Bergholt

10am Morning Worship with Communion
(Rev Chris)
4pm family@church (led by Fiona)
6.30pm The Gathering (Rev Chris)

Bentley

10am Morning Worship with Communion Service (Rev Don)

Brantham

10.30am Morning Worship with Communion with final reading of Banns for Maddie and Sam (Rev Peter)

Tattingstone

6pm Evensong (led by Simon)

1st Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 42.1–9
Psalm 29
Acts 10.34–43
Matthew 3.13–end

COLLECT

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, the bright splendour
whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence
in your Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

THEREFORE go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

This Week

Monday 5 th January	6pm Church of England Evening Prayer at the Rectory
Daily Reading	Ruth 3; Colossians 3.12—4.1
Tuesday 6 th January	2pm -3.30pm Prayer walking – meet at St. Mary's, East Bergholt
Daily Reading	Ephesians 3.1–12; Matthew 2.1–12
Wednesday 7 th January	9.30am BCP Service at East Bergholt (Rev Peter) 10:00 Take a Break Coffee, incorporating “Knit & Natter” at East Bergholt 7pm Praying the Psalms at St. Mary's, East Bergholt
Daily Reading	Jeremiah 23.1–8; Matthew 20.1–16
Thursday 8 th January	9am Church of England Morning Prayer at the Rectory 2pm MU Meeting at East Bergholt
Daily Reading	Jeremiah 30.1–17; Matthew 20.17–28
Friday 9 th January	9.30am -11.30am Toddlers and Carers at East Bergholt 1pm Funeral of Norman Barnett at East Bergholt (Nick) 1pm Lunch time Prayer via Zoom (click here or join Rev. Chris live at the Rectory)
Daily Reading	Jeremiah 30.18—31.9; Matthew 20.29–end
Saturday 10 th January <i>Rev Chris rest day</i>	9am-9.30am Benefice prayer for mission at Brantham - please just come and join us or contact Len and Issy Smith for detail 9.30am Prayer at Brantham with coffee and pastries
Daily Reading	Jeremiah 31.10–17; Matthew 23.1–12

- ❖ **Family Friendly Services** are held at 4pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Bring the family to one of our all-age family friendly services with stories, songs, activities and cake, lasting 40-45 minutes. Our next family service is on 11th January at East Bergholt and 25th January at Brantham.
- ❖ **The Gathering:** A contemporary service with worship, word and prayer. Followed by tea, coffee and cake! Held at St. Mary's East Bergholt every second and fourth Sunday of each month starting at 6.30pm. No Gathering in December



Looking further ahead.....

w/c 11th January:

Monday 12th

6pm Church of England Evening Prayer at the Rectory

Tuesday 13th

7pm PCC meeting at East Bergholt

Wednesday 14th

7pm Jesus centring Prayer (shutting out distractions) at East Bergholt

Thursday 15th

9am Church of England Morning Prayer at the Rectory

Friday 16th

9.30am-11.30am Toddlers and Carers at East Bergholt

11.30am Wardens Meeting at the Rectory

1pm Lunch time Prayer by ZOOM (or join Rev. Chris live at the Rectory)

Pray for the church family:

Monday: Linda Daynes; Jeanette; Steve Newman; Sandra Jermyn; Marian Scott; Marji Holdsworth; Carole Wheatley; Christopher Lewis

Tuesday: Hilary Taylor; Margaret and Helen Wheatley; Christine Page; Daphne Glen; Carol Whitby; Marion Noble; Frances Grimwood

Wednesday: Jonathan Fermor; Jo and William Marston; Mandy Churchill; Wendie Felgate; Adi Lavender

Thursday: Vicky Scott; Peter Green and the Youth Group

Friday: Mary West; Annie Winckler; Eva Rainey; Valerie Ayton; Sharon Auton

Pray for those who have recently lost a loved one

The families and friends of Norman Barnett; Peter Sutton; Hazel Sinclair and all who grieve at this time of their sad loss.

Please join in with one or more opportunities to pray in the Benefice Month of Prayer – see the times and places in blue on the previous page.

Keeping connected....

- ❖ **Getting to services** - do you need a lift to our services (or can provide lifts for others) please contact Michelle - michelle@constablebenefice.org / 07955 329341.
- ❖ **Weekly emails/blog** - if you would like to receive the weekly email, please message Michelle to add your name to our distribution list.
- ❖ **Alpha** - each year we run a least one Alpha course exploring life and the Christian faith. Contact Rev Chris revchris@constablebenefice.org / 07566 871270 for more information.
- ❖ **Discussion groups** - a few discussion groups are held throughout the year, if you would like to join contact Rev Roy - rseden@gmail.com / 07806 940407
- ❖ **Connect Youth Group** – A weekly group aimed at teenagers with fun faith and friends... contact Rev Chris or Issy Smith - 07941 096809
- ❖ **Open the Book** -taking bible stories into school with drama. If interested contact Ruth Bull ruthbull@btinternet.com / 01206 298733
- ❖ **Moving Up Club** – Something new for the “younger” youth - for those in school years 6, 7 and 8. beginning on 4th January at St Michael’s Brantham. Speak to Len or Issy Smith or Rev. Chris for more details or email: youth@constablebenefice.org

Rector: Rev Chris Willis, The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Brantham CO11 1PZ
revchris@constablebenefice.org / 07566 871270

Benefice Administrator: michelle@constablebenefice.org / 07955 329341

Website: www.ConstableCountryChurches.co.uk **YouTube:** Constable Country Churches

Facebook: stmaryseastbergholt and St Michael's Church, Brantham

Parish Safeguarding Officers

East Bergholt	Howard Holdsworth	07970 416249	Brantham	Issy Smith	07941 096809
Bentley	Tom Hill	01473 311119	Tattingstone	Suena Harley	01473 327531

Retired Priests (Permission to Officiate granted by the Bishop)

Revd Peter Ball 01206 393316 | Revd Roy Seden 07806 940407 | Revd Don Mehen 01473 310383

Readers

Nick Pavitt 01473 328512 | Ruth Bull 01206 298733 | Sandra Mehen 01473 310383

Churchwardens

East Bergholt	Fiona Trott	01206 298205	Brantham	Jane Pavitt	01473 328512
	Jackie Reeves	01206 299973		Len Smith	07986 767123
Bentley	Tom Hill	01473 311119	Tattingstone	Linda Smalley	07803 589862
	Jane Day	01473 310518		Lyn Tomlinson	01473 328251

Elders

East Bergholt	Fiona Trott	01206 298205	Brantham	Sarah McCraw	01206 391384
	Chris Jacob	01206 298552		Len Smith	07986 767123
Bentley	Jane Day	01473 310518	Tattingstone	Issy Smith	07941 096809
	Carolyn Evans	01473 311090		Simon Harley	01473 327531
	Doreen Savage	01473 311122		Suena Harley	01473 327531

Organists

East Bergholt – Vacancy
Tattingstone - Jane Gould
Brantham - David McLachlan
Bentley - Wilf Newport-Herring