

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 22 February 2026



Surprised or untrusting?

On Monday this week we had Wild Church at St Mary's. This is a variation on the Messy Church idea, aimed at children and their carers and is held outside, using the backdrop of God's amazing creation and the beauty of the churchyard to guide us into meeting with God. The theme of this service was about Winter turning into Spring. We listened to some bible passages, sang about God's love and had some activities using nature to help us think about God – making bird feeders, drawing the snowdrops among others – before closing with prayers and singing around the fire.

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with this and to Emma who coordinated the service. It was great to see children and adults praising God and enjoying the surrounds of the churchyard.

But I was humbled by a comment that was made. When we were there on Monday morning, the weather was perfect. The sun shone, there was no rain. Everyone was commenting on the difference between the day before with heavy rain and the joy of being outside in the sunshine. But the humbling part was that I was told I shouldn't have been surprised. We prayed for good weather and a great event and God provided for our needs. Did I not trust that God would answer our prayers?

I suppose I am in the wrong here and I should have trusted God more. God does answer prayer – I have seen this time and again. So why was I surprised? Perhaps I need to let go and trust God more.

If this is a situation you find yourself in, perhaps a great prayer comes in Mark's gospel (Mark 9:23-24). Jesus tells the man who is seeking his help 'All things can be done for the one who believes.' And the man replies, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' May God help us to believe and trust in him more.

Toby

Sunday 22 February

10:00 am – Holy Communion – St Michael's

3:00 pm – Evensong – St John's

Monday 23 February

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Wednesday 25 February

10:00 am Holy Communion – St Michael's

Sunday 1 March

9:30 am - Breakfast Church - St Michael's

11:00 am – Holy Communion – St Mary's

6:30 pm - United Service - Rushmere Baptist Church

Monday 2 March

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Sunday 8 March

10:00 am – Holy Communion – St Michael's

3:00 pm – Evensong – St John's

Monday 9 March

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Wednesday 11 March

10:00 am Holy Communion – St Michael's

Sunday 15 March

10:00 am – Morning Worship – St Michael's

11:00 am – Holy Communion – St Mary's

Monday 16 March

8:30 - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Refreshments for Crocus Visitors

During February we are hoping to provide refreshments on Saturdays for the many visitors who come to St. Mary's to admire the crocuses and snowdrops in the churchyard. We intend to provide teas, coffees and biscuits between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

If we get enough volunteers, we may extend the time to 2.00 pm. If you have an hour or two to spare on a Saturday, please talk to Roger or Pam who will be happy to add you to the Rota. The refreshments will be set up first thing. All you will need to do is pour the teas or coffees and chat to the visitors.

Roger

(Crocus photo from last year - Ed.)



Lent Lunch

- Food, fellowship and support for the persecuted church

Each Tuesday lunchtime during lent you are invited to join us at St Michael's for homemade soup and bread, a chance to chat to friends and a short talk. The meal is free but this year we are asking for donations towards Open Doors who support the persecuted church. Find out more about the work they do at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Lunches start on **Tuesday February 24th at 12.30pm.**

Toby

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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068833925952>

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

Women Together meet again this Monday, 23rd February, 7:30pm at St Michael's church. All women in the benefice are welcome to join us for some fun music making with handbells. If you would like to join us please bring a pair of gloves. For any more information, or to be added to the email list for this group, please contact Tamsin: ttjtate@aol.com

Tamsin