

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 26 April 2026



It was a great joy to share in our recent church weekend together, a time marked fellowship, learning, encouragement, and a deep sense of God being at work among us. The weekend was centred around the story of Mary and Martha, we were invited to reflect on the balance between being and doing, to consider what Church and life has looked for us in the past, but also to think about the future, and also how we serve and love generously.

Across the weekend, there was a genuine spirit of fellowship. Whether gathered over meals, in conversation between sessions, or simply enjoying one another's company, I felt it was a strengthening of our life together as a church family. The informal moments were just as valuable as the teaching times, offering space to chat and get to know one another a little bit more.

For me, one of the highlights was the table discussions. It was particularly encouraging to hear such a wide range of perspectives on questions we were set, as people of all ages shared their thoughts. There was something great about listening to both younger and older voices, each with their own insights, questions, and reflections. It reminded us that we grow best when we learn and do life together.

I'd like to give thanks for all who helped organise and lead the weekend, and for everyone who came along and contributed so openly. It was a meaningful and encouraging time, and my prayer that its impact will continue to shape us in the days ahead.

Rob

Sunday 26 April

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

6:30 pm – Evensong – St John's

Monday 27 April

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

Sunday 3 May

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

11:00 am - Holy Communion - St Mary's

6:30 pm - United Service - St John's URC [1]

Monday 4 May

No Morning Prayer this week

Sunday 10 May

10:00 am - Morning Service - St Michael's

6:30 pm – Evensong – St John's

Monday 11 May

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

Wednesday 13 May

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

Sunday 17 May

10:00 am - APCM* - St Michael's

Monday 18 May

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

[1] United Service at St John's URC

Sunday, May 3 · 18:30 – 19:30

St John's United Reformed Church

1 Cowper St, Ipswich IP4 5JD

* APCM - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Congregation Feedback from our Church Weekend

I thought it was brilliant and I echo hopes to do it again, and that more people will come. I took lots away. Probably the biggest thing was Mary, not holding back and reflecting on where I hold back. Thinking about the temptation to be a Martha and missing out on being Mary, which is more important. I thought it was helpful to think about letting go and the process of change and particularly making space to grieve for things that have gone. And I loved the line of not being interested in inclusion, but in belonging instead.

A wonderful weekend of sharing fellowship, love and learning. Very uplifting



I really enjoyed the weekend - on the Saturday we were challenged, but not too much - you were not made to feel totally inadequate. I felt that Chris Hood was just the right person for the job.

A chance to talk to people properly, in more depth. Learning together in small groups was great. Different perspectives on the teaching. Multigenerational mix was lovely.

Relaxing, thought provoking and gently challenging. Uplifting. Like a good three course meal served at a gentle pace and enjoyed with friends.

Saturday was a day to remember. Chris's talks were inspiring, and it was great to have the opportunity to discuss or chat with people we didn't necessarily know very well. It was also very helpful to take on the role of Mary for the day, and sit at Jesus's feet, rather than the usual necessity to be Martha. A big thank-you to all who were involved in arranging the day. Please can we do something similar in the future?

....so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. (Rom 12:5,6)
The weekend showed this wonderfully through great teaching from Chris, good discussion and encouragement and great fellowship

A challenging day but for all the right reasons. Made me think about where I am at the feet of Jesus.

Women Together

On **Monday 27th April** we will be having a fun and inclusive quiz, led by Jan. Do join us at 7:30pm in St Michael's. If you have a favourite pencil, do bring it along, otherwise we will have some to borrow.

Tamsin

Christian Aid Week – 10th-16th May 2026



Every year, during this appeal, people across Britain and Ireland have seven days to make a difference and raise funds for Christian Aid Week. Money raised will help Christian Aid and its partners to support communities worldwide to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty.

This year's appeal, which runs from May 10-16, is focusing on work in Nairobi, Kenya, where intense poverty means families have a daily struggle to feed their children. With secure jobs hard to find and most people earning less than a dollar a day to cover school costs, rent and water, providing food for every meal is a relentless problem. But with tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, families are learning how to make the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables to cook or sell. Urban farming in even the smallest of spaces has changed the fear of hunger and homelessness into the happiness of knowing they can feed their families in a secure home!

Would you be able to help bring hope to families like this? We will be raising funds in the benefice through an online envelope (e-envelope) but we would also like to give others the opportunity to donate by posting envelopes through doors in Martlesham. Are you willing to volunteer to post envelopes through doors in a road near you this Christian Aid Week? (They do not need collecting.) If you are, please speak to any member of the ministry team, or contact me on 01473 625630.

To find out more about the work of Christian Aid and projects like this, visit caid.org.uk

Carolyn Smith

Men Of The Benefice!

Every 4th Monday of the Month the women of the benefice are invited to get together for the evening for various activities and social events. I think it's time we men also do something... So, starting **this Monday (27th)**, and then every 4th Monday when the women are getting together, I will be going to the Douglas Bader, I'm not planning on anything more than just going for a couple of drinks and to have a chat about life, the universe and everything. Please accept this is an open invite to come along!

Rob

Electoral Roll

If you filled in an electoral roll form last year for Martlesham and/or Brightwell, you will **remain** on the rolls for this year.

However, if you are **not** on the church electoral roll and would like to be, **please ask Toby or Roger for a form**. To be eligible you need to be baptised, over 16, a member of the Church of England and resident in the parish or have habitually attended public worship in the parish for the past six months. You have until **the end of April to hand in a completed form** to be entered onto the roll for this year, which will allow you to vote at the APCM in May.

Roger Goffee, Electoral Roll Officer

PARISH MINISTER: The Revd Toby Tate (Rest day: Friday)

Tel: 01473 612659, Email: toby@martleshamcofe.org.uk

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: The Revd Christine Pinder (Working days: Sun, Wed, Thurs)

Tel: 07555 748345, Email: christine.pinder@btinternet.com

CURATE: Revd Rob Allinson, Curate (Rest day: Friday)

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