

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 5 April 2026



John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

On Tuesday we gathered at St Michael's for a memorial service to thank God for the life of Liz Welham. It was a very moving service as we heard of her life and the way that she had loved fun and been totally committed to the God she followed all her days. From a previous service recording, we also had Liz herself giving the reading from John 17. Christine spoke of how Liz had read these words in hope and expectation and now was living them out with Jesus forever.

And that is the message of Easter. Jesus' death and resurrection give us the assurance that this life is not all there is. That even when things look bleak – as we will recall on Good Friday - Sunday is coming. Jesus is risen. And we can be with him forever.

As we end our travels through lent and head towards the glorious celebration of Easter, I urge you not to jump too quickly. To recall all that Jesus went through so that you and I could be with God. Join us at our services if you can. Take the time to reflect. And then, on Sunday we can dance and sing, knowing that we too can have eternal life through Jesus.

Toby

There will be no newsletter next week due to holidays.
Normal service will resume the following week.

Friday 3 April (Good Friday)

10:00 am - Short service then walk of witness;
St Mary's to St Michael's for soup and hot
cross buns

3:00 pm Hour at the cross - St John's

Saturday 4 April (Holy Saturday)

6:30 pm - Vigil service - St Mary's

Sunday 5 April - Easter Sunday

10:00 am – Holy Communion – St Michael's
(This is NOT a breakfast service)

11:00 am – Holy Communion – St Mary's

Monday 6 April - Easter Monday

There is NO morning prayer service

Wednesday 8 April

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

Sunday 12 April

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

3:00 pm – Evensong – St John's

Monday 13 April

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

Sunday 19 April

10:00 - Holy Communion - St Michael's

Monday 20 April

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

Wednesday 22 April

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

Sunday 26 April

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

3:00 pm – Evensong – St John's

Prayer Chain

As a quick reminder, Martlesham Benefice has a small group of people who have taken on the pastoral responsibility of praying into situations that require urgent prayer. In the last few weeks this group have had requests, and have been praying into, some very serious health issues. We have been praying for those who are unwell, as well as the family and friends of those affected. Please contact me if you would like the Prayer Chain to pray into a situation. rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk

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

A few updates and alterations

No Morning Prayer at St Mary's

There will **not** be a Morning Prayer meeting at St Mary's on Monday the 6th April. We will be resuming the weekly meeting on **Monday the 13th of April**. Morning Prayer is a wonderful way to start the week. Starting at **8.30am** at St Mary's, we follow the set pattern of Morning Prayer liturgy, this includes scripture readings and a short time of open prayer. You are all very welcome to come along.

Rob

Monthly Prayer Meeting - Change of Date

Due to holidays, we will be moving our monthly prayer meeting to **Tuesday the 14th of April**. This will be held in the **Runway Cafe from 7 - 7.45pm**. This is a time we spend in corporate open prayer. Praying for the activities of the Church as well as whatever the Spirit puts onto our hearts. There is no expectation to pray out loud, if you would prefer, just come and be still. If you'd like to know more please get in touch with me. The entire Church family is warmly invited.

Rob

Reading the Bible out Loud

Our next session is on **Sunday the 19th of April**, starting at **6.30pm** in the Chapel at St Michael's. Last month we only got half way through Luke's Gospel so we will be finishing that off. More details next time.

Rob

Prayer Diary for April

- 1 For the residents of Gresswell Court
- 2 Maundy Thursday – that we may serve others with love
- 3 Good Friday – give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice
- 4 Holy Saturday - for all who have been bereaved recently
- 5 Easter Sunday – give thanks for the victory of life over death
- 6 Give thanks for signs of new life
- 7 For those providing aid in dangerous situations
- 8 For the residents of Harvesters Way
- 9 For all at the Runway today
- 10 For those recovering from operations
- 11 For all working in local retail businesses today
- 12 Give thanks for the hope the risen Jesus brings
- 13 For students and staff returning to school this week
- 14 For students preparing for exams this term
- 15 For the residents of Heather Close
- 16 Give thanks for the support of friends and neighbours
- 17 For fellowship and fun at Friends on Friday
- 18 For families struggling with their finances
- 19 That we may worship God with joy
- 20 For those feeling lonely or isolated
- 21 Give thanks for the wonders of God's creation
- 22 For the residents of Heathfield & Heathfield Mews
- 23 St George's Day – pray for our country and government
- 24 Those working at Adastral Park
- 25 St Mark's Day – give thanks for his gospel
- 26 For all at the Pop-Up Shop today
- 27 For our Bible study Home Groups
- 28 For all at the Broom Tree café today
- 29 For the residents of Higgins Place
- 30 Those working for worldwide food security

Carolyn Smith

Lent Lunches - thank you

Thanks to all who attended the Lent Lunches and particularly to Bob and Lynn James (also Jan and Ronan for stepping in) for providing the excellent homemade soup and the bread.

Thanks to Rob and Toby for the interesting insight into those who met Jesus during his time of ministry.

Christopher Howard Treasurer

I'm very pleased and thankful to say that following from our Lent Lunch series this year, through the generosity of those attending, we raised £854 for the Christian charity Open Doors. They are a wonderful charity doing a lot of work around the world helping our persecuted brothers and sisters.

In July we will have John Gillett, a representative of Open Doors, coming to speak to us about their work, I let him know about the money raised and he wrote:

"That is brilliant. On behalf of our persecuted family thank you so much to you and your congregation. Very much looking forward to sharing with you about Open Doors."

Please do take a look at their website if you'd like to know more about the persecution so many Christians are facing:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Thank you again to all who donated.

Rob

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