

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 19 April 2026



Hope for the future

Did you manage to get a break over Easter? I spoke to a number of people beforehand and a common comment was that the prospect of a long weekend was really exciting. And thank you to those who spent part of that weekend reflecting and celebrating at event and services at the church. Christine asked on Sunday what people had discovered about God over Easter and if you wanted to share that, I would love to hear your stories of God – do drop me an email.

We went away last week to Barcelona. A big highlight of our trip was visiting the Sagrada Familia cathedral. It's a modern cathedral dedicated to the holy family (Sagrada Familia). Designed by Antoni Gaudí and still as yet unfinished, it has incredible sculptures and artwork outside depicting scenes from Jesus' life, towers that are to remind you of the disciples and the virgin Mary, with the largest tower being the tower of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the bit that struck me most was that it attracts so many visitors. People from around the world come to marvel at its architecture and to view the amazing stonework. And all of these people get an insight into the life of Jesus. This may be an interesting tourist destination, but it also acts as a witness to the life of Jesus. Maybe it isn't what we might consider a missional activity – getting people to look at a church – but this building is very up front with what it represents.

And I wonder, what do our lives, our homes, our church buildings say about our beliefs? How much of what we do in our day to day life is pointing towards Jesus? It's something I will be pondering and I invite you to do the same. Does mission have to be explicitly telling people about Jesus or will they – as Peter wrote in his first letter – look at how we live and ask us for the reason for the hope we have. I would love it if that was what my life showed, and perhaps we all could ask God for his help to make it so.

Toby

1 Peter 3:15. *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

Sunday 19 April

10:00 am - 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

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

Monday 4 May

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

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

* APCM - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Benefice away day at home plan

If you haven't signed up, please email me to let me know you are coming. Spaces are still available. Everything is provided, but donations of cakes for the afternoon are welcome.

Toby

Saturday 18th April

9:30am Coffee and pastries

10am Opening worship

10:30am Session 1

12noon Lunch – provided

1pm Session 2

2pm Walk / Prayer room / Free time /
Bible journaling / Craft

3pm Coffee and cake

3:30pm Session 3

4:30pm Closing worship

5pm Finish

Sunday 19th April

9:30am Breakfast

10am (approx.) Benefice informal communion service

And remember that later we have.....

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 though Luke's Gospel so we will be finishing that off. This is an opportunity to come and to hear the Word of God proclaimed the way it was originally intended, said aloud as one reading. You can come along and just listen, or you can read a chapter aloud. Don't worry if you missed the first half, come along anyway!

We will start into Acts next month.

Rob

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

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)

Tel: 07539 463312, Email: rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTER: Emma Allinson

Tel: 07359 339452, Email: emma@martleshamcofe.org.uk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Rowan Limb: newsletter@martleshamcofe.org.uk

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