

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 17 May 2026



The mysterious ways of God

Without getting into personal details, I have been praying about a situation involving someone close to me. I recently had news that the situation has changed, positively for that person. However it seems that the change means that potentially something not so good is happening with someone else. So now I'm left wondering. My prayers appear to have been answered positively but is it at the expense of someone else's situation? How should I feel about this? I know it has become something of a cliché, but the words of the hymn “God moves in a mysterious way” came to mind. I re-read the whole hymn which reflects on a number of situations where good seems to come from what is perceived as bad or difficult. In reading the background to the hymn I learn that the writer set down the words just prior to a depressive illness and attempted suicide.

I suppose things become a cliché because they are so often found to be true. To our eyes God does often move in a mysterious way. Apparently when the hymn was published it was accompanied by a quote from John's Gospel “You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand” (Jn 13:7). We may find life's path and God's direction in it difficult to comprehend at times but we are taught to hold fast, keep the faith and trust in God. Take a moment to read and reflect on the passage from Ephesians below.

Rowan

Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Sunday 17 May

10:30 am - APCM* - St Michael's

Monday 18 May

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

Sunday 24 May

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

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 25 May

No Morning Prayer this week

Wednesday 27 May

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

Sunday 31 May

10:30 am - Benefice service - St Michael's

Monday 1 June

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

Sunday 7 June

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

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

Monday 8 June

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

Wednesday 10 June

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

Sunday 14 June

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

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 15 June

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

* APCM - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Hear the Bible

I've heard it said before that if you want to hear God speak, read your Bible. If you want to hear God speak audibly, read your Bible out loud.

This week we start the book of Acts. We'll be hearing about how the early Jesus followers worked through how they meet together, how they work out various responsibilities, and start to build and grow the Church around the world. I think it's one of the most exciting books in the Bible. You are invited to come along and just sit and listen, and you can read a chapter if you wish. **Sunday 17th May, 6:30pm, St Michael's**
Rob



Reflecting with God in May

- 17th May at 7pm on Zoom.

Would you like an opportunity to gather together with God for some quiet time and reflection? Our May Reflecting with God meeting is this **Sunday (17th May) at 7pm on Zoom**, and everyone is welcome to join. For more details and the Zoom link please contact Toby toby@martleshamcofe.org.uk
Carolyn Smith

Prayer Diary May 2026

- 1 for all volunteers
- 2 give thanks for the joy of birdsong
- 3 thank you Lord for being alongside us
- 4 for safe travel on the bank holiday
- 5 for children and young adults being bullied
- 6 for the residents of Hilton Road
- 7 for the smooth running of the local elections
- 8 for wisdom for all newly-elected councillors
- 9 for farmers and those working in agriculture
- 10 Lord, help us to share the hope we have in you
- 11 Christian Aid Week: for the work of Christian Aid
- 12 for hospital, GP surgery and workplace nurses
- 13 for the residents of Holfen Close
- 14 Ascension Day: may we seek and serve our risen Lord
- 15 for all taking exams
- 16 those working for reconciliation and peace
- 17 for our Annual Parish Church Meeting today
- 18 for comfort for the lost and lonely
- 19 for Home-Start and the families they help
- 20 for the residents of Holly End
- 21 for all new families
- 22 for those with memory loss, their families and carers
- 23 those working in the legal profession
- 24 Pentecost: thank God for the gift of his Holy Spirit
- 25 give thanks for times of relaxation and rest
- 26 for our neighbours
- 27 for the residents of Horseman Court
- 28 for all who are living in fear
- 29 for young people unable to find paid employment
- 30 for prisoners, prison workers, and their families
- 31 Trinity Sunday: Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christian Aid Week appeal!



Thank you so much to the many wonderful volunteers who delivered donation envelopes in a road near them last week, and to all who've made a donation. We are really grateful, as every donation is used to help our vulnerable neighbours worldwide who are living in poverty in these difficult times.

However, the need is still urgent and it's not too late to make a donation! If you picked up a red donation envelope in church, place your donation in and seal, then drop off in the Runway, or St Michael's post-box, or hand it to any member of the ministry team.

Alternatively you can give online via our e-envelope link at

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/martlesham-benefice> or use the QR code shown, or give over the phone by calling 08080 006 006.

Making a donation is a wonderful way of sharing love with our vulnerable neighbours living in poverty. On behalf of the poor and vulnerable people of the world, thank you.

Carolyn Smith



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

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

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