

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 13 September 2026



The book of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is “a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Our lives are made up of seasons. Some are exciting, some are difficult, some are full of change, and some we wish could last forever.

I think that's particularly worth remembering as we move from one season in the life of our church into another. There is much for us to give thanks for. We can look back at the people, the friendships, the worship, the ministry, the laughter and even the challenges, and recognise God's faithfulness. We don't have to pretend that everything was perfect. We can simply thank God for all that He has done.

There is also much for us to rejoice in now. The season we are in today is a gift from God. There are people to meet, opportunities to grasp, prayers to pray and lives to touch. I don't want us to become so focused on what has been that we miss what God is doing among us today.

And finally, we can pray for what is to come. None of us knows exactly what the future holds, but we know the One who does. We can place the future of our church, our families and ourselves into God's hands and trust Him to lead us.

There is a great truth for us as Christians. Our seasons change, circumstances change, and people come and go, but Jesus Christ remains the same – yesterday, today and forever. So, as we enter this new season together, let us give thanks for what we have had, rejoice in what we have now, and pray expectantly for what lies ahead.

Whatever the future holds, we know who holds it.
And that gives me great hope.

Rob

Sunday 13 September

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

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 14 September

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

Sunday 20 September

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

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

Monday 21 September

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

Wednesday 23 September

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

Sunday 27 September

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

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 28 Sept

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

Sunday 4 Oct

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

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

6:30 pm - United Service - St Andrew's
Rushmere

Monday 5 Oct

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

Tuesday 6 oct

7:00 pm - Prayer meeting - Runway

* Session 7 (Acts: The Story of Mission) in 'The Bible Course'



Reading the Bible out Loud

On **Sunday 20th of September** (St. Michael's, 6:30pm) we will be continuing our reading of the Bible aloud, this month we'll be going reading through 1 Corinthians. It's a pastoral letter from the Apostle Paul that addresses divisions and practical problems in the Corinthian church by calling believers to live unified lives centered on the gospel.

You can just sit and listen, you can follow the readings along, you can read a chapter aloud if you wish. Every time that we have done this so far there have been people who take something from it that they've either not heard or thought about before. God's Word is truly alive and still speaks today, please do come along and have a listen.

Rob



The Monthly 'Man go to Pub' Evening

On **Monday the 28th September**, the men of the Benefice are invited to come along to the Douglas Bader for 7.30pm. For a drink of something, general merriment and low brow man talk! Or, in other words, come and have a pint and chew the fat for a bit. This is an open invitation - please do feel invited!

Rob

FIND

As Toby has left the rectory, the FIND donations box is now outside Jan and Ronan Doorly's home at 30, Demesne Gardens. IP5 3UA. This is right at the end of Demesne, and number 30 comes after numbers 31 and 32! The box is to the right of the double garage.

FIND have explained that donations are down but families needing help are up, so any donations are welcome. They have sent the following latest request:

We currently need carrier bags and bags for life, soup, cooking oil, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, long life milk, tea bags, tinned fruit, tinned rice puddings, cereals, rice, washing powder, toilet rolls, womens and mens deodorant, sanitary pads, shaving foam/gel, size 5 and size 7 nappies and baby wipes.

Help required

We are looking for someone to be a Martlesham Church rep for FIND, the food bank we support. This is a really easy job! All you need to do is be a point of contact for the occasional emails that come through. Usually these have details of what the particular needs are at that time, especially in the run up to Christmas. Then if you could put the details into a notice in the newsletter we're all kept up to date with what is needed.

This would be literally just a few notices in a year, but it would be a big help to the ministry team who can't take on these extra jobs during a vacancy.

Please talk to **Christine** if you could help with this.

Jan Doorly

Prayer Diary for September



Please include the following in your daily prayers and pray daily for peace.

- 13 Give thanks for the examples of discipleship in the Bible
- 14 for all at St Mary's Morning Prayer service today
- 15 give thanks for the colours in creation
- 16 for the residents of Nightjar Grove
- 17 for writers of inspiring Christian music
- 18 for young people starting an apprenticeship
- 19 all working for peace and reconciliation
- 20 for a generous spirit so that we may help our neighbours
- 21 St Matthew's Day: give thanks for his life and witness
- 22 for young people with poor mental health
- 23 for the residents of Nunn Close
- 24 for those living with dementia, their families and carers
- 25 give thanks for spiritual writers bringing us closer to God
- 26 for young people preparing to start university or college
- 27 Give thanks for the loving presence of Christ in our lives
- 28 for wisdom for MP's and all in local government
- 29 St Michael and All Angels: give thanks for our church
- 30 for the residents of Milano Avenue

Man's Great End

Lord of all being,
There is one thing that deserves my greatest care,
 that calls forth my ardent desires,
That is, that I may answer the great end for which I am
made –
 to glorify thee who hast given me being,
 and to do all the good I can for my fellow men;
Verily, life is not worth having
 if it be not improved for this noble purpose.
Yet, Lord, how little is this the thought of mankind!
Most men seem to live for themselves,
 without much of any regard for thy glory,
 or for the good of others;
They earnestly desire and eagerly pursue,
 the riches, honours, pleasures of this life,
 as if they supposed that wealth, greatness,
merriment,
 could make their immortal souls happy;

But, alas, what false delusive dreams are these!
And how miserable ere long will those be that sleep in them,
 for all our happiness consists in loving thee,
 and being holy as thou art holy.

O may I never fall into the tempers and vanities,
 the sensuality and folly of the present world!
It is a place of inexpressible sorrow, a vast empty
nothingness;
Time is a moment, a vapour,
 and all its enjoyments are empty bubbles,
 fleeting blasts of wind,
 from which nothing satisfactory can be derived;
Give me grace always to keep in covenant with thee,
 and to reject as delusion a great name here or hereafter,
 together with all sinful pleasures or profits.
Help me to show continually that there can be no true
happiness,
 no fulfilling of thy purpose for me,
 apart from a life lived in and for the Son of thy love.

PARISH MINISTER: In vacancy
All queries should be directed to Christine or Rob, below

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