

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL
Sunday 20 September 2026



Greetings

There is of course much we can learn from Paul's letters to the churches. One thing I have always liked reading, and often get overlooked I think, are the messages of greetings and love between churches that he includes. For example: "The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings." 1 Corinthians 16:19

When we were on holiday in the Lake District we attended St Paul's, Grange-over-Sands for Holy Communion. We had barely got in the door when a lady greeted us and made us feel very welcome. We explained we were on holiday and where we had come from. I did not go on to say "The churches of Martlesham and Brightwell say hello". Why not? Maybe that would have been a good and loving thing to say, or is it weird?

We focus very much on the teaching that Paul provides, and with good reason. Perhaps we should also give attention to the 'human side of things'; the encouragement that we are not alone. We are part of God's Kingdom here on earth, proclaiming Jesus as our Saviour and enjoying the shared hope we all have as Christians.

If this has resonated at all, perhaps next time that you are visiting another church (and I am speaking to myself as much as anyone reading this), say hello, and pass on our greetings. We all have an opportunity at the monthly united services at the beginning of each month, The next one is at St Andrew's, Rushmere. See the service list for details.

The congregation at St Paul's won't read this, but I will end with "*The churches of Martlesham and Brightwell, Suffolk send greetings to the church of St Paul's, Grange-over-Sands. Thank you for your welcome and fellowship. God bless you in all your work for the Lord*".

Rowan

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'

August 2026 PCC Meeting

To try to keep you all up to date with what is going on behind the scenes of our three churches, we have agreed to share a synopsis of our PCC meetings once the minutes of the meetings have been passed by the PCC as a true and accurate record of our meeting.

This came about as a request for more information about the PCC and what we have discussed and agreed to. Our August meeting was very full and well represented as it was a joint meeting for St Michael's, St Mary's and St John's. We always begin our meetings with a Bible Reading and Prayer followed by acknowledging those who are present and apologies for those unable to attend. The agenda for the evening included discussions about the Vacancy and what was left on Toby's task list that we still needed to cover. How we would manage the phone system for the vicarage now that the house is vacant. The Parish Profile, Harvest Supper, Runway New Manager, Runway Wifi, Heating at St Michael's and the Rough Sleeper at St Mary's. A lot to cover in one evening and a lot to cover on here so for this week I will tell you about 2 of these items.

The Parish Profile - As we look towards appointing a new Vicar we need to produce a document giving an overview of our 3 churches and what each has to offer. It is a way to celebrate the history and the strength of our 3 churches, but also gives us the opportunity to think about where we are now and where we would like to be going forward. The profile will give details of the local community, schools, housing, the church buildings and finance. The document will be produced with the support of the Diocese and when complete the profile will be sent to prospective applicants. We have chosen 2 people from each of the three churches to put this together. Christine Pinder and Jo Stuckey for St Michael's, Pam and Roger Goffee for St Mary's and Bob and Lynne James for St John's. We would also very much appreciate your input too please, if you have any thoughts about the kind of person you would like to see as your new vicar please do speak to one of us, or preferably please write it down and pass it on.

Safeguarding/Rough Sleeper - For many months now we have had a gentleman sleeping rough in the porch of St Mary's. Both Toby, Rob and our Church Wardens at St Mary's have been extremely accommodating and have done their very best to help him. Unfortunately and somewhat reluctantly, we have had to take the decision to move him on as this has become a

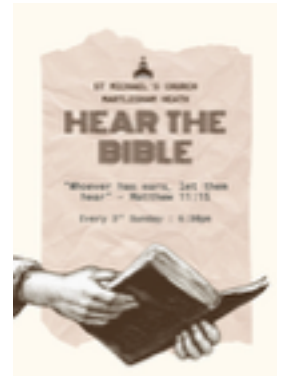
continued in next column

safeguarding issue (on police recommendation), that as a PCC we could not ignore. From 3rd September a lock was placed on the porch gate. We have put up new signage stating that rough sleeping is not allowed and we have provided contact information for available support for anyone who needs it. More to come next week.

Jo Stuckey, PCC Secretary

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

Church Building Work Mornings

It's getting to that time of year where all the Churches need a bit of care and attention as such, in November we have planned a work morning at each of our Churches. From 9:30am - 12:30am all volunteers are welcomed to come and trim bushes, sweep paths and do a bit of general maintenance. We have limited equipment but please do bring along your own if you can.

St Michael's - **21st November**

St Mary's - **28th November**

St John's - **30th November**

Rob

Prayer Diary for September



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

- 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

Reflecting with God

20th September at 7pm on Zoom

Would you like an opportunity to gather together with God for some quiet time and reflection? Our September Reflecting with God meeting is this Sunday (20th) at 7pm online on Zoom and everyone is welcome to join. For more details and the Zoom link please contact the church email address: info@martleshamcofe.org.uk

Carolyn Smith

Cream Teas Afternoon

A big THANK YOU to all those who came to or supported our cream teas afternoon. The weather was perfect and we raised £365 for St. Elizabeth Hospice.

Pam and Roger



Another prayer from: The Valley of Vision - A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions

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,

continued in next column

PARISH MINISTER: In vacancy

All queries should be directed to Christine or Rob, below

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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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.

Excerpted from The Valley of Vision, edited by Arthur Bennett.

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FIND

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.

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

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