

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL
Sunday 27 September 2026



Trusting God in Times of Change

As most of you will know by now, I have accepted the post of Vicar at St Johns the Baptist and St Andrews in Ipswich. In due course Emma, Poppy and I will be leaving the Martlesham Benefice to begin this new chapter of ministry. We will, however, be here with you until the New Year, so there is still plenty of time before that change comes. In our two years here, Martlesham has become a very special place for all of us. We have shared so much with you, and we are incredibly grateful for the friendships we have made, the people we have had the privilege of walking alongside, and all the ways we have been able to serve God together.

Through prayer and reflection, both Emma and I firmly believe that God is calling me into this new ministry. We believe that, just as God has been preparing me for what lies ahead, he has also been preparing the church I am going to and the people I will serve there.

And I think that should also give you great confidence about the future here. If God has a plan for me, then he most certainly has a plan for the Martlesham with Brightwell Benefice. Just as I have been prepared for where I am going, I believe there is someone being prepared for here. We may not yet know who the next vicar will be, but God does. So, let's keep praying, let's keep trusting, and let's remember that this is God's church, and Jesus says, “I will build my church.”

Please pray for Emma and me as we prepare for this next step, but also pray for the Martlesham Benefice and for the person God is preparing to come here. My prayer is that, through all the changes ahead, we will continue to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. As Proverbs 3 reminds us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

We don't need to know exactly what the future holds. We simply need to trust the God who does. He has been faithful to us, he is faithful to us now, and I am confident that he will be faithful to Martlesham in all that lies ahead.

Rob

Sunday 27 September

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

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 28 September

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

Sunday 4 October

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 October

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

Tuesday 6 October

7:00 pm - Prayer meeting - Runway

Sunday 11 October

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

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 12 October

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

Wednesday 14 October

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

Sunday 18 October

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

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

Monday 19 October

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

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

Prayer Diary

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



September

- 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

October

- 1 those feeling lonely or depressed
- 2 for all victims of violence
- 3 give thanks for time with family and friends

- 4 give thanks for the fruitfulness of God's creation
- 5 for those working to improve our local wildlife habitats
- 6 for farmers and growers after a difficult summer
- 7 the residents of Park Close
- 8 for those with poor eyesight
- 9 those caring for family who have poor mental health
- 10 for all who are homeless
- 11 Prisoners Sunday – for all prisoners and their families
- 12 give thanks for God's boundless love and care
- 13 for teachers working with special needs pupils
- 14 the residents of Parkers Place
- 15 for all in the Runway today
- 16 for the Martlesham First Responders volunteers
- 17 for our local retailers and retail workers

Remember, Women Together, 28th September at St Michael's, 7:30pm, AND men's chinwag and drink at the Douglas Bader, same time and date.



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

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

God Honoured

“O GOD, Praise waiteth for thee,
and to render it is my noblest exercise;
This is thy due from all thy creatures,
for all thy works display thy attributes and fulfil thy designs;
The sea, dry land, winter cold, summer heat,
morning light, evening shade are full of thee,
and thou givest me them richly to enjoy.
Thou art King of kings and Lord of lords;
At thy pleasure empires rise and fall;
All thy works praise thee and thy saints bless thee;
Let me be numbered with thy holy ones,
resemble them in character and condition,
sit with them at Jesus' feet.
May my religion be always firmly rooted in thy Word,
my understanding divinely informed,
my affections holy and heavenly,
my motives simple and pure,
and my heart never wrong with thee.
Deliver me from the natural darkness of my own mind,
from the corruptions of my heart,
from the temptations to which I am exposed,
from the daily snares that attend me.

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)

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I am in constant danger while I am in this life;
Let thy watchful eye ever be upon me for my defence,
Save me from the power of my worldly and spiritual enemies
and from all painful evils to which I have exposed myself.
Until the day of life dawns above
let there be unrestrained fellowship with Jesus;
Until fruition comes, may I enjoy the earnest
of my inheritance and the firstfruits of the Spirit;
Until I finish my course with joy may I pursue it with diligence,
in every part display the resources of the Christian,
and adorn the doctrine of thee my God in all things.”

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

Published by The Banner of Truth Trust.

Newsletter announcement

After this week, there will not be any new issues of the newsletter until 18th October. If there are any pressing items or notices during this period, let Rob know and he can put them out in an email and/or make announcements at the services.

Editor

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

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