

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL
Sunday 25 October 2026



The Lord works in mysterious ways – a common saying and one that has rung true for me over the last few weeks.

As you know, Rob and I will be moving on at Christmas and that has left the PCC with the question of what to do with the Children and Families' Ministry going forward. I am pleased to say there are plans in place to ensure it continues, albeit in a reduced capacity, until you have a new incumbent.

During a time when it would make sense for God to be closing doors or at least just keeping them ajar, he seems to be creating more and more opportunities for us to minister to our local schools. At this time of year there are always assemblies and Harvest services but in addition, we have been asked to do a Baptism lesson with children from year one at Birchwood and to talk to the Year five children at Martlesham Primary Academy about our churches. This was a fantastic afternoon where the children asked some really insightful questions and seemed to be listening attentively to the answers they were given. In addition, we have visited Gorseland to do two Baptism lessons and have already filled the rota for our 'Experience Christmas' day on the 2nd of December.

I don't know why God is creating more opportunities at a time when we will soon have less people available to deliver them, but I do trust that he is working his purposes out! Could you offer to visit one of our schools just once during the Spring term? Do speak to me if you think it might be something God is calling you to.

Emma

Sunday 25 Oct

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

3:00 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 26 Oct

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

Wednesday 28 Oct

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

Sunday 1 Nov

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

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

6:30 pm - United Service - Colchester Rd Baptist Church

Monday 2 Nov

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

Sunday 8 Nov

10:00 am - Remembrance Service - St Michael's

10:50 am - Remembrance Service - St Mary's

3:00 pm - Evensong - St John's

Wednesday 11 Nov

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

Sunday 15 Nov

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

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

Note the new 'winter' time for Evensong and the slightly earlier time at St Mary's for Remembrance Sunday

* Session 8 (Revelation: The Story Completed) in 'The Bible Course'

We are supporting **Operation Christmas Child** by making shoeboxes filled with gifts for children again this year. Leaflets are available with all the details or go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk to find out more. If you would prefer to donate some gifts to be made into a shoebox that is also very welcome. Small toys, stationery, hygiene items and gloves or woolly hats are excellent gifts. Sadly, toothpaste, liquids, or edible gifts are not allowed. **There is a crate in the Runway where gifts can be left.** The last day for bringing shoeboxes or gifts is **Saturday 14th November in the Runway or Sunday 15th November in church.** Please talk to Marga or Christine if you have any questions.

Christine



Bereavement Service

This year's service for the dearly departed where we remember those who have died will be at **St Mary's on Sunday 1st November, at 11am** as part of the normal Sunday service. Everyone is welcome and if you would like us to read out the name of someone you have loved and lost you are welcome to give the names to Roger or Lynn on the day, or to email Roger at roger.goffee@btinternet.com. There is also the opportunity to light a candle at the end of the service.

Christine



The Monthly 'Man go to Pub' Evening

On **Monday the 26th October**, 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 -there's more men coming each month - so please do feel invited!

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

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

The Gift of Gifts

O Source of all good,
What shall I render to thee for the gift of gifts,
thine own dear Son, begotten, not created,
my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,
his self-emptying incomprehensible,
his infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.
Herein is wonder of wonders:
he came below to raise me above,
was born like me that I might become like him.
Herein is love;
when I cannot rise to him he draws near on wings of grace,
to raise me to himself.
Herein is power;
when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart
he united them in indissoluble unity, the uncreated and the
created.
Herein is wisdom;
when I was undone, with no will to return to him,
and no intellect to devise recovery,
he came, God-incarnate, to save me to the uttermost

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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as a man to die my death,
to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,
to work out a perfect righteousness for me.
O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my
mind;
let me hear good tidings of great joy,
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;
place me with ox, ass, camel, goat,
to look with them upon my Redeemer's face,
and in him account myself delivered from sin;
let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,
embrace him with undying faith,
exulting that he is mine and I am his.
In him thou hast given me so much that heaven can give no more.

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

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Prayer Diary

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



October

25 Bible Sunday – give thanks for the gift of God's word
26 for families in half term week
27 those preparing tomorrow's Autumn budget statement
28 the residents of Pine Bank
29 all worrying about their finances
30 for all who dread the darker evenings
31 that we may be carriers of Christ's light

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