Sunday 1st Nov **All Saints' Day** *Psalm 34:1-10* *Matthew 5:1-12*	9.30am	Mendham	Village Service
	9.30am	Metfield	The Gathering
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Stradbroke	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Stradbroke	Service of Memorial (All Souls)
Sunday 8th Nov **Remembrance Sunday** *Micah 4:1-5* *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*	9.00am	Withersdale	Holy Communion BCP and Act of Remembrance
	10.00am	Fressingfield	Remembrance Service followed by the Act of Remembrance at memorial
	10.30am	Metfield	Village Worship/Act of Remembrance
	10.30am	Weybread	Family Service/Act of Remembrance
	10.50am	Mendham	Act of Remembrance, war memorial
Sunday 15th Nov **2nd before Advent** *Psalm 90:1-8,12* *Matthew 25:14-30*	9.30am	Mendham	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Stradbroke	Informal
	6.30pm	Fressingfield	Celebration
Sunday 22nd Nov **Christ the King** *Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24* *Matthew 25:31-46*	10.30am	Fressingfield	Informal all age service
	10.30am	Metfield	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th Nov **Advent Sunday** *1 Corinthians 1:3-9* *Mark 13:24-37*	10.30am	Weybread	Benefice Holy Communion



Benefice vacancy prayers, 7th October, 2.30pm at Stradbroke and 4th November, 2.30pm at Weybread

Village prayers Mondays, 10am at Stradbroke Church
Wednesdays, 10am at the Munnings, Mendham
Fridays (from 23rd Oct), 9.30am, Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield

Keep in touch with what's on.....

For your email copy of Benefice News, email sancroftbeneficeoffice@gmail.com
For diocesan weekly news, email communications@cofesuffolk.org

Facebook pages: *Sancroft benefice churches *Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich.

Parish church contacts

Fressingfield	Malcolm Wood	01379 388981,	Revd Peter	07903 215889
Mendham	Toby Hart	07891 045140,	Revd Diane	01986 788750
Metfield	Judy Game	01379 588017,	Revd Peter	07903 215889
Stradbroke	Revd Maria	07759 298824,	revmariaprice@gmail.com	
Weybread	Mike Nott	07890 032292,	Revd Maria	07759 298824
Withersdale	Marj Hudson	01379 586408,	Revd Diane	01986 788750

Sancroft Benefice Churches

comprising the parishes of
Fressingfield, Metfield,
Mendham, Stradbroke,
Weybread, Withersdale



October and November 2026

As I write this, I can no longer ignore the signs of autumn – cobwebs and dew, lower temperatures in the early mornings – despite my desire for summer weather (and clothes!) to continue. Ecclesiastes tells us, *For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven* and I remember how when we lived in Africa, I missed England's four seasons. Church seasons in UK correspond well to nature's seasons. Just as we prepare for more time indoors, less daylight, self-reflection around the fire, plants dying above ground, our services remember those who have died in peacetime or in violence of war, those Christians with exemplary lives.

What is our calling then as members of Sancroft benefice congregations in October and November? This is a time when we can show to others who are grieving the strength of our faith, that God is there to comfort throughout all our sorrows, that death is not the end. That it is the good that individuals have done that is what is remembered. That as Christians throughout everything we are to strive for peace and reconciliation. This is not about preaching to others or even finding the right words, (almost impossible in some situations) but just getting alongside others, within or outside our services.

As we are drawn to reflect on our lives and faith, please consider what you need to grow more in depth in your spirituality and discipleship. I read recently that our faith should not just be comforting but make us feel uncomfortable as we live in this world. Revd Maria is leading one course *(see inside)* but do let the ministry team know what else we should provide. For all of us our faith should continue to grow throughout our lives. **Revd Diane**

Ministry leadership team:
Revd Peter, Revd Diane, Revd Tony, Revd Maria and Nick Stolls
If you would like to speak to someone, please contact:
Revd Peter Schwier (Assistant Priest), 07903 215889
Revd Diane Ekins-Powell (Associate Priest), 01986 788750,
diane1961erica@gmail.com
Revd Dr Tony Rich (Assistant Priest), m-t-rich@msn.com
Revd Maria Price (Curate), 07759 298824, revmariaprice@gmail.com
Benefice administrator, Virginia Skoyles, sancroftbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

October and November

Every Tuesday **Coffee Break,** 10.30am Sancroft Hall. All welcome. Bring friends.

Every Thursday **Little Dragonflies**, baby and toddler group, meets termtime in Fressingfield School. Contact Lynette on 07776 432910 or nettie@blackmatrix.net

Every Thursday **My Choir Rocks,** children's singing group, 7 to 8pm, termtime **Singalong Thursdays,** adult group, 8 to 9pm. Both Mendham Church. Just turn up!

Thursdays 1st Oct / 5th Nov
Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Sancroft Hall. October - join us to make Christmas cards for prisoners. November - Linda Ginn, on *Taking care of our clergy*.

Saturdays 3rd Oct / 7th Nov
Metfield Café 10am to 12 noon at the village hall with lots of stalls. Also book swap stall and recycling table. Come and meet friends and neighbours. October - in support of Macmillan.

Sat 10th **NE District Bell Ringing Guild practice,** Mendham, 9.30 to 11.30am.

Sun 11th **Benefice BCP Evensong,** 3.30pm, A feast of St Francis at Fressingfield to mark the conclusion of Creationtide and the church's celebration of St Francis of Assisi. Supported by the choir, there will be well-known hymns and opportunities for the congregation to join in. Although the service is to be led by Revd Andrew Vessey, the preacher is Revd Richard Court, himself a Third Order Franciscan.

Sat 17th (none in Nov) **Fressingfield Produce Market** 10am to 12 noon, Fox and Goose Green. Fresh produce, plants, crafts, refreshments, music Always room for more stalls. Contact fressproduce@btinternet.com **Christmas Market 12th December.**

Weds 7th Oct / 4th Nov **Benefice prayers for the vacancy,** 2.30pm. Oct-Stradbroke church, Nov-Weybread church.

Sundays 18th Oct / 15th Nov
Fressingfield Celebration, 6.30pm, uplifting contemporary worship with the band. Homemade refreshments. Oct speaker: Ann Leitch. Nov speaker: Stuart Balmer.

Thurs 29th **Suffolk Wildlife Trust hedgehog workshop,** 10.30am to 12 noon, Metfield church. Information and children's activities too. All welcome.

Sun 1st Nov **3.30pm, All Souls Service of Memorial** at Stradbroke church. A time to remember and give thanks for those we have loved, who have died. We read their names and light a candle in their memory. Refreshments follow the service.

Sat 7th Nov **Men's Breakfast, 7.30am, Sancroft Hall. G**uest speaker Peter Walker who will be talking on **Tax, the stock exchange, prison and disease.** Come and join us for an English breakfast and great company. Free of charge, donations gratefully received. Reserve your place with Rosemary Savage on 01379 586747.

Sun 8th Nov
Remembrance Services
Please see rotas and especially note the change to Fressingfield's service time. 10am at church and 10.55am at the war memorial.



Sunday 4th Oct **Trinity 18** **End of Creationtide** *Isaiah 5:1-7, Matt 21:33-end*	9.30am	Mendham	Village service
	9.30am	Metfield	The Gathering
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Stradbroke	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th Oct **Trinity 19** *Isaiah 25:1-9* *Matthew 22:1-14*	9.00am	Withersdale	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Weybread	Family service
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Informal
	10.30am	Metfield	Village worship
	3.30pm	Fressingfield	BCP Evensong
Sunday 18th Oct **Luke the Evangelist** *Isaiah 35:3-6* *Luke 10:1-9*	9.30am	Mendham	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Fressingfield	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Stradbroke	Informal
	6.30pm	Fressingfield	Celebration
Sunday 25th Oct **Bible Sunday** *Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12* *Matthew 24:30-35*	10.30am	Fressingfield	Informal all age service
	10.30am	Metfield	Holy Communion

Weds 18th Nov
Ben Communications Group, 2pm.

Sat 21st Nov
Jumble Sale in Stradbroke church with cake stall, 9.30am.

Also **Sat 21st Nov** **Weybread Craft and Local Produce Fair,** St Andrew's Church and Weybread Hall Farm Barn, Church Road, Weybread IP21 5TR. 10am to 3.45pm. Stalls in the church and barn including bags, cards, Christmas gifts, knitted items, painted glass, jams, chutneys, marmalade, wooden and stainless steel gifts, pottery, plants, soaps, Beckview Shorthorns, supplying top quality grass fed beef.
Refreshments in the barn, local turkey rolls, brie rolls, homemade cakes, shortbread, tea and coffee. Raffle.
Free admission and parking.
Contact Sue 01379 586434 or email sueofnunnery@btinternet.com

Sun 29th Nov **Advent Benefice Communion Service**, 10.30am at Weybread followed by refreshments.

Also Sun 29th Nov From 4pm, **Advent lights in Stradbroke churchyard** with live music from Stradbroke Radio. Church open with refreshments and children's activities.

Autumn Course - Confirmation and Deepening Spirituality Our course combines the two. Join us if you wish to be confirmed. Join us if you wish to deepen your spirituality as you get older. **Fridays 16th, 23rd, 30th Oct, then 6th, 13th, 20th Nov, 10am to 12 noon, in the Lady Chapel, Stradbroke church.** Contact Revd Maria on 07759 298824 or revmariaprice@gmail.com.

PCCs

Metfield	Tues 6th Oct ,10.30am
Stradbroke	Weds 14th Oct, 2.30pm
Withersdale	Mon 26th Oct, 3pm
Mendham	Weds 4th Nov, 7.30pm
Fressingfield	Thurs 12th Nov, 7pm
Weybread	Fri 13th Nov, 2.30pm