

Benefice of Mid-Loes Magazine

December 2025 - January 2026



WHO'S WHO ACROSS THE PARISHES

Rector	Revd Gary Best, The Rectory, Earl Soham (Day off Friday) Email: midloesoffice@gmail.com	01728 685550 07493 072 695
Assistant Priest	Revd Kathleen Martin, Firs Farm, Monewden Email: rev.kay@yahoo.com	01473 737285 07928 799 416
Lay Elders	Mrs. Mary Vellacott, Stretham House, Earl Soham Miss Amber Pearce-Wright	01728 685 423
Mag. Editor	Revd Gary Best, E-Mail: midloesmagazine@gmail.com	01728 685550

ASHFIELD

Churchwardens	Robert Grimsey email: robertgrimseyactpc@gmail.com	01728 685 203
Secretary	Robert Grimsey, as above	
Treasurer	Robert Grimsey, as above	

CHARSFIELD

Churchwardens	Linda Stratton email: linda.e.stratton@gmail.com Mike Bamford	07760 220970 07899 696606
Secretary	Beverley Gugenheim, The Cottage, The Street, Charsfield email: bev@gugenheim.net	
Treasurer	Garry Stratton email: g.d.stratton@outlook.com	

CRETINGHAM

Churchwardens	Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Crettingham Jonathan Lettin, Moat Farm, Crettingham	01728 685 335 07896 251 569
Treasurer	Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Crettingham	07799 588 106

DALLINGHOO

Churchwardens	Mrs. Charlotte Sullivan email : charlottesullivan87@yahoo.com	07967 743006
Secretary	Tina Love, 2 Blacksmiths Cottages, Dallinghoo	01473 737653
Treasurer	Ros Bayley, ros.bayley@googlemail.com	

Contributions to the Magazine

Please note that any contributions to the magazine need to be sent to the following e-mail address: **midloesmagazine@gmail.com**

From The Rectory...

WELCOME to your new look benefice magazine.

From this issue, the magazine will print in full-colour and will be a bi-monthly publication. You will also notice a new style to the layout of the pages, incorporating more colour photos, all combining to (hopefully) making it an even more interesting magazine.

A couple of new features that I would like to introduce to you are, 'Photos from around the Benefice', and also photo requests for the front cover. If you take any photos of church events, please feel free to send through to me any that you believe could be considered for inclusion within the magazine, and you will see for this first issue, there are photos from Remembrance Sunday; Harvest; Home Communion Lunch; and also photos from Harvest, all being used to get things started.

Also, for the front cover, I am looking for photos from around the benefice, that capture the beauty of where we live, perhaps depicting the season, or something creative, but it must be taken from within our benefice, and a photo that could work for the front cover. Again, to start with our first issue, the photo being used hopefully captures a sense of Autumn and is a view direct from my office window at The Rectory. I am truly blessed that I am living in such a beautiful part of the world, and just through the garden here at The Rectory, that in itself has undergone quite a lot of change, I witness the changing colours and moods of the seasons, something that I have become more aware and respectful of since moving here nearly four years ago.

I truly hope that the new look and feel of the magazine is something that we can all embrace, and view it for the positivity of life that exists within our benefice churches, and the busyness that exists within our communities, highlighting some of the great work that is undertaken by so many.

I would also like to wish you a very happy Christmas, and a joyful and peaceful New Year.

Rev'd Gary





CAN YOU MAKE **CHRISTMAS**

A LITTLE BETTER FOR A LOT OF FAMILIES?

THESE DONATIONS WILL HELP:

FOOD

BOXES OF CHOCOLATES AND TUBS OF SWEETS

TINS OF BISCUITS

CHRISTMAS DESSERTS (E.G. PUDDINGS AND MINCE PIES)

CHUTNEYS AND PICKLES

STUFFING AND GRAVY MIXES

SAVOURY SNACKS

NON-FOOD

VOUCHERS (WITH RECEIPTS ATTACHED PLEASE)

TOYS AND GIFTS FOR CHILDREN 0- 17YRS

CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER AND SELLOTAPE

GIFTS AND TOILETRIES FOR ADULTS

We are very grateful for any donations, large or small.

Please remember that any foods that display an alcohol content **cannot** be given out.

The above list is not exhaustive, bear in mind that whatever **your** family enjoys at Christmas, our families are likely to enjoy too.



Please note that all benefice churches are collection points for FIND donations.

If further information is required, please contact Revd Gary Best

midloesoffice@gmail.com

Licensing of Elders

Sunday 4th January 2026

St. Mary's Church, Dallinghoo, 10am

Please join us at this Benefice Service where we will also be joined by Archdeacon Rich Henderson who will be licensing two new Elders who will serve within the Ministry Team here in our benefice. I am delighted that Alister Gourlay and Robert Grimsey have chosen to take the path of Elder Ministry, where they will both be great assets to the existing Ministry Team.

Both Alister and Robert have undertaken the necessary training involved to become an Elder, where their duties will include being able to lead Morning and Evening Prayer; assist with Communion; undertaking pastoral duties through hospital or home visits; as well as visiting and welcoming newcomers to our villages.

Please come along and support Alister and Robert and start the New Year with a service of celebration of ministry within our benefice.

Photos from across the Benefice

If you have a photo taken at a local church event, or from within and around our churches, or if you are able to take a scenic photo of the beautiful countryside in which our benefice sits, please send your photos through for inclusion in the new, 'Photos from around the Benefice' pages, or a picture that might work as a front cover.

Please send your photos to midloesmagazine@gmail.com



You can now follow the Benefice of Mid-Loes on Facebook or Instagram - [beneficeofmidloes](https://www.instagram.com/beneficeofmidloes)



Also, keep in touch with the Benefice through:

www.mid-loes.com www.achurchnearyou.com

**THE DEADLINE for contributions panel
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026 ISSUE is
SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY**

Village Carol Service



*Featuring the
Ipswich Hospital Band*

St Peter's Church, Charsfield

*Friday 12th December 2025
7.30pm*

Spiced drinks & light refreshments



(Retiring Collection for St. Peter's Church Fabric Fund)

Benefice Services for December and January

Sunday 7th December – St. Mary's, Monewden – 10am

This is an All-Age Benefice Toy Service (see advert in magazine for more details)

Sunday 4th January - St. Mary's, Dallinghoo – 10am

Licensing Service for Lay Elders where we will be joined by Archdeacon Rich Henderson

PRAYER FOR HEALING

A small group meets every month and if you would like prayer for yourself or someone close who is ill or in any kind of need please get in touch with any of the following:

Kathleen Martin 01473 737 285

Margaret Salter

01473 737 182

Mary Vellacott 01728 685423

Revd Wendy Gourlay 01728 685335



“Goodness! is it time for Christmas Fair organising, carol service planning and nativity play rehearsals already?!”

COPY DEADLINES FOR 2026

February-March 2026: **January 18th**

August-September 2026: **July 19th**

April-May 2026: **March 15th**

October-November 2026: **September 20th**

June-July 2026: **May 17th**

December 2026 - January 2027: **November 15th**

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ASHFIELD NOTES

CHRISTMAS CARDS

From the beginning of December a selection of A5 Christmas Cards will be available to buy at the back of the church. Available in packs of 5 of each style, @ £1.75 per pack. Details of ways to pay will be displayed in the church. ALL proceeds go into Church Funds.

CAROL SERVICE, 2025

The Carol Service will take place on Monday 22nd December at 7pm. Ruth and Des Hart have again agreed to play some seasonal tunes before and after the service. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. We look forward to welcoming you all to this special occasion to start the Christmas festivities.

DONATIONS TO FIND

Around Christmas time the demand for food from the FIND [Families in Need] foodbank increases greatly. Do please consider placing a few items into the collection box in the church porch for those less fortunate than ourselves! Our donations are taken to FIND on a monthly basis so if you cannot donate at this time donations can be made at any time. An up to date list of the most needed things is displayed beside the collection box. Thank you.

FELLED TREE

At the time of writing there remain some logs available if any one would like some in exchange for a donation to church funds. Please contact Jane or Robert before helping yourself!

BRIAN LENNON RIP

It is with sadness that we record the death of Brian Lennon. He had lived in the village for a number of decades before moving to Stonham Aspal and was involved in various aspects of village life Parish Council and Village Hall in particular. We send our condolences to his widow Margaret, Neil, Maria and their extended family at this sad time.

THANK YOU, ASHFIELD

As another year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to village life in any way during 2025. Whether that be by organising or attending events for residents in the village hall or church. Also my fellow Parish Councillors who work quietly behind the scenes to ensure that the quality of life here is maintained as much as possible!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council takes place on Weds. 10th December at 7.30pm. Members of the press and public are able to attend our meetings and contribute in the 'Public Forum' or at the discretion of the Chairman at any other point during the meeting. Do come along and support your Councillors. Should you have a specific matter that you would like to be discussed at this meeting please let the Clerk know at least a week before the meeting.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please use the Prayer Boxes found in all the benefice churches or email midloesprayer@gmail.com



Charsfield Village Hall

St. Valentine's Supper

Saturday 14th February 2026

7:00 for 7:30 pm

Celebrating:

Love — Friendship — Good Neighbours !

3 Course Supper (Veg options)

Bar — Music — Raffle

In aid of Charsfield Recreation Ground

£20.00 per person — Book Early !

Sue charsfieldrc@gmail.com

Lesley ljm.fuller@gmail.com

ASHFIELD NOTES *continued*

FOOTPATHS

Provided that the weather is reasonable I am sure that many of you will be looking to walk off the excesses of Christmas over the holiday period. As far as I am aware there are no obstructions anywhere on the Ashfield footpath and bridleway network. Now that the weather has turned it is inevitable that there will be muddy areas to contend with, walkers should go prepared for this! Dog owners are requested to keep their canine friends under 'close' control at all time so as to avoid disturbing wildlife or livestock. Please also ensure that you clean up after your dog. Should you encounter any obstructions or other issues please do let Malcolm Pease or myself know so that things can be put right.

It just remains for me to wish you all a Blessed, Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and prosperous 2026.

Robert



Are you caring for someone with memory loss and / or dementia?

Then we are here to help you.

Our Carers Club provides a carers cafe, post diagnosis support, information, advice, peer support, songs for sharing, transport and much more.

The Carers Club & Info Cafe

9th & 23rd December 2025 2pm-4pm

13th & 27th January 2026 2pm - 4pm

Dove Cottage, 24 High Street, Debenham.

IP14 6QN

Just come along!

Relax and find a listening ear.

(Your loved one is most welcome)

Further Information:

The-debenham-project.org.uk

01728 862003



You can now follow the Benefice of Mid-Loes on Facebook or Instagram - [beneficeofmidloes](https://www.facebook.com/beneficeofmidloes)



Also, keep in touch with the Benefice through:

www.mid-loes.com

www.achurchnearyou.com

If you would rather access the Benefice Magazine online through the website, or A Church Near You, rather than receive a printed copy, please let the office know, midloesoffice@gmail.com

PRAYER FOR HEALING

A small group meets every month and if you would like prayer for yourself or someone close who is ill or in any kind of need please get in touch with any of the following:

Kathleen Martin 01473 737 285

Margaret Salter

01473 737 182

Mary Vellacott 01728 685423

Revd Wendy Gourlay 01728 685335



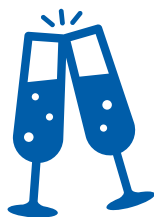
All welcome at Charsfield Village Hall!

Table
Tennis

Pop Up Bar



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Friday 5th & 19th December

Friday 2nd & 16th January

7pm – 10pm

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Contributions to the Magazine

Please note that any contributions to the magazine need to be sent to the following e-mail address: midloesmagazine@gmail.com

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES



CHARSFIELD AND DALLINGHOO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We invite you to join us or visit us and enjoy interesting speakers, friendly company and excellent catering!

Our meetings are held at either Dallinghoo village hall (in the summer) or Charsfield village hall (in the winter) on the second Monday of the month at 7.45pm.

Guests and new members are always welcome - for more information contact the Secretary, Ros Bayley at CharsfieldDallinghoo@sefwi.org.uk or 01473 737346

We would love to have some new members join us. Give us a try, come along as a guest and see what we're like!

In January 2026 on Monday 12th at Charsfield village hall we'll be Boogie Woogie-ing with Susan and Steve .

Members will be encouraged to participate!! 1940s dress if they feel enthusiastic!!!



ST. PETER'S CHURCH CHARSFIELD DECEMBER/JANUARY CLEANING ROTA

13 December	Linda & Lesley
27 December	Gill & Beverley
10 January	Lucy Fox
24 January	Lucy Fox

A BIG THANK YOU FROM CHARSFIELD PCC

Our thanks go to the Ministry Team for all their spiritual guidance over the year. Also, to the readers and sidesman and those who provide refreshments after services.

We would also like to thank everyone who helps with the care of St. Peter's and its churchyard. Thank you to all the people who clean the church and arrange flowers, wind the clock and keep the flag flying. Our especial thanks to our organist Roger for all his hard work. Also, to all the people involved in keeping the churchyard tidy.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S, CHARSFIELD

Village Carol Service
with Ipswich Hospital Band.
Spiced drinks and light refreshments.

7:30pm Friday 12th December

Christmas Mass
9pm 24th December

*Wishing everyone
a Happy Christmas
and Joyful New Year*



ST PETER'S FLOWER ROTA

6 Dec 25	13 Dec 25	20 Dec 25	27 Dec 25	
Margaret Salter	Margaret Salter	Christmas Everyone	Christmas Everyone	
3 Jan 26	10 Jan 26	17 Jan 26	24 Jan 26	31 Jan 26
Joyce Whitley	Joyce Whitley	Maureen Arbon	Maureen Arbon	Angela Farmer





COFFEE AND CHAT IN ST PETER'S

Our popular Coffee and Chat get-togethers continue into 2026 with the dates for the first three being:

Monday 12th January

Monday 2nd February

and Friday 6th March

From 10.30 until Noon – fresh coffee, a selection of teas, biscuits and (increasingly) CAKE are served, along with CHAT about all manner of subjects.

Come and join us in 2026!



FUNDRAISER – RACE NIGHT back by popular demand!

**Our re-arranged Race Night will be held
on Saturday 7th February at Brandeston Village Hall.**

**Another evening of high drama, excitement and also-rans as we join
racegoers trackside across the UK to witness eight close-run races.**

**Bring your friends – 7pm – first race 7.15 – and make up a table to cheer
your selected gee-gee. Guaranteed FUN but (sadly) no guaranteed profit!!
Tickets £12 to include a hot supper. Card payment available on the night**

**Please contact Alister (tubric.cottage@gmail.com 01728 685335)
or Heather (heather.runacres@hotmail.co.uk 01728 685736) to book your place.**

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES continued

ST PETER'S CHURCH ROTA

Date	Readers	Sides person
Dec 7th 10am Benefice Toy Service Monewden	10am Benefice Toy Service Monewden All Welcome	
Dec 12th 7.30pm Carols with Ipswich Hospital Band	7.30pm Carols with Ipswich Hospital Band Refreshments to follow	
Dec 14th	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice	
Dec 21st 10am Holy Communion	Franki Margaret	Margaret
Dec 24th 9pm Christmas Holy Communion	Linda Mike	Mike
Dec 25th Christmas Day	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice	
Dec 28th	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice	
Jan 4th 10am Benefice Holy Communion With Archdeacon Rich Lay Elder Licensing Dallinghoo	10am Benefice Holy Communion Dallinghoo All Welcome	
Jan 11th	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice	
Jan 18th 4pm Evening Prayer	Antony Margaret	Margaret
Jan 25th 10am Holy Communion	Linda Lesley	Lesley



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or check out our website or facebook page

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CRETINGHAM NOTES



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Remembrance Service on 9th November. An innovation this year was the inclusion of a member of the younger generation as Samuel Chenery – whose home overlooks the War Memorial – laid the poppy wreath and two personalised remembrance crosses before we heard the names of Cretingham's fallen read and we observed the two minute silence.



TOY SERVICE

The annual Toy Service will be in St Mary's Monewden on Sunday 7th December. Toy donations made at the service will be distributed locally by the Salvation Army. We look forward to seeing you there.



CHURCH SALE

COFFEE and CHAT

Saturday 13th December
10am-Noon

*Come and see the stunning and
colourful Christmas Flower Displays*

Refreshments

Cakes

Books

Crafts Stall

Raffle

Christmas Tombola



CAROLS IN THE CRETINGHAM BELL

Do come and join us from 7.00pm on Wednesday 17th December in the convivial atmosphere of The Bell to sing all your favourite Carols. Happy to accept requests! Retiring collection for East Anglia's Children's Hospice - EACH

CAROL SERVICE

Mince Pies
with a cheery Twist!

Mulled Wine

4pm

21st December



CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST PETER'S

Communion Service
at 10am. A service accessible
to people of all ages.



SAVE THE DATE

There will be a special Benefice service on Sunday 4th January – to be held at St Mary's, Dallinghoo, starting at 10.00am.

We will be joined by our Archdeacon – Venerable Rich Henderson – who will licence Alister Gourlay (Cretingham) and Robert Grimsey (Ashfield-cum-Thorpe) as Elders to serve as part of the Ministry Team across the Benefice. Once licensed, Alister and Robert will be able to lead Morning and Evening Prayer services, undertake Pastoral duties across the Benefice and support the current Team members in a variety of ways.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT ALISTER & ROBERT AS
THEY START THIS EXCITING AND CHALLENGING ROLE.

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SPEED LIMIT THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Speeding through Cretingham continues to be an issue and one which, God forbid, may result in serious injury or worse. Putting our clocks back to GMT means that many more daily commuting journeys are made in darkness and dog-walkers may be more likely to be on the roads after 4pm.



The illuminating SID (Speed Indicator Device) causes about half of the drivers to slow and brake when it flashes its red, angry face showing their excess speed. However, over 40% of drivers ignore the SID and don't touch their brakes or take their foot off the accelerator. The recently distributed 30mph wheelie-bin stickers delivered to households within the 30mph zone are a visual and repeated reminder as drivers pass through – but only on a Wednesday.

I have been approached by several villagers seeking solutions to this perennial problem. One option is to apply for membership of the Community Speedwatch (CSW) scheme sponsored by Suffolk Police. You may have seen volunteers undertaking this task in other villages - Debach is a nearby example. Using equipment supplied by the Police, the volunteers record the date, time, make and model of vehicle of those exceeding the speed limit.

This information is passed to the County CSW Administrator who sends a warning letter to the registered keeper of the vehicle. Persistent offenders and high speeders are added to a tasking list for Police intervention.

An important step in getting a CSW group active in Cretingham is for the Parish Council to endorse the application. I propose to add such a discussion to the agenda of the Council meeting on 14-1-26 (7.30pm in Monewden Village Hall).

However, prior to that meeting it would helpful to have a straw-poll of opinions from across the village about the concept of a CSW group and whether it is an appropriate option worthy of consideration. There might also be other solutions that could be considered. In any case there will be an opportunity to discuss this with your Councillors at the PC

meeting in January. Please let me have your reactions: email to tubric.cottage@gmail.com or phone 01728 685335. For further information about CSW – search for CSW Suffolk online.

*Alister Gourlay
Chair of Cretingham, Monewden & Hoo PC*



FUNDRAISER – RACE NIGHT back by popular demand!

Our re-arranged Race Night will be held on Saturday 7th February at Brandeston Village Hall.

Another evening of high drama, excitement and also-rans as we join racegoers trackside across the UK to witness eight close-run races.

Bring your friends – 7pm – first race 7.15 – and make up a table to cheer your selected gee-gee. Guaranteed FUN but (sadly) no guaranteed profit!! Tickets £12 to include a hot supper. Card payment available on the night

Please contact Alister (tubric.cottage@gmail.com 01728 685335) or Heather (heather.runacres@hotmail.co.uk 01728 685736) to book your place.





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www.coastvalley.co.uk



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN VILLAGE EVENTS

It may at first seem a bit daunting getting involved in village events, but don't be afraid to be part of what could be an amazing and supportive community.

My journey started when I visited the church on a particularly low day. As I sat contemplating, I got to looking at the dust and cobwebs (not a good thing when you have OCD). I looked for a cloth, started cleaning. I went back a few days later to do a bit more cleaning, that's when I Met Linda and we got chatting. Linda told me about coffee and chat, and that's where I met a few more people.

Since then I have been inspired by the people I have got know. I have become involved in social events such as Harvest supper and Christmas Fayre, joined the PCC and Village Hall committee and alongside Linda run the monthly coffee and chat. In doing so I have met some amazing people from Dallingshoo, Bredfield, Monewdon and Charsfield and more importantly I feel a part of our village.

Do as little or as much as you like, but if you want Dallingshoo to remain a thriving community, it might need you to take that first tiny step for it to happen. Pop along to the coffee morning, Offer to bake a cake, set up a baking session in the village hall, donating a raffle prize, offer to help at an event. Dallingshoo needs you.

DALLINGHOO COFFEE MORNING

As we will be holding the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29th November from 11am – 2pm there will be no coffee morning in December.

AMANDA'S DEFIBRILLATOR DEMONSTRATION

Thank you to the Amazing Amanda Parker for her competent and enjoyable 'getting to know your defibrillator' session at the November coffee morning.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

November 29th - Christmas Fayre, There will be craft stalls, raffle and prize games, bric-a-brac, stocking fillers, card sale, cake sale. We will be serving pulled pork rolls (veggie option available) and festive cakes.

Please do come and support this village event we are working hard to bring Dallingshoo together as a community, and if that doesn't bring you in, maybe FATHER CHRISTMAS, who will be arriving at 1pm, will!

Year after year Father Christmas has gone out of his way to visit Dallingshoo, at his busiest time, and turning up in some extraordinary modes of transport. Let's give him support by turning up to meet him.

Cake and raffle prize donations, if you have something you can offer please get in touch.

17th January - Quiz Night

31st January 2026 - Coffee Morning

Email janedsewell@gmail.com

Telephone: 07780 787842

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please use the Prayer Boxes found in all the benefice churches
or email midloesprayer@gmail.com





Do you like
to sew, craft
or create?

THEN JOIN US AT NEST SEWING SCHOOL
Suffolk's new sewing and crafting school based near Framlingham

We run classes for children and adults, parties, private groups,
specialist workshops and 1-2-1. All levels welcome.

Email info@nestsewingschool.com
for more information.

NEST
the makehouse

Photos from around the Benefice



2025 RBL Poppy Appeal

Parish Collection totals for Debach £166.06,
and Dallinghoo £749.86



READINGS & CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2025

Church	December 7 th	December 12 th	December 14 th	December 19 th	December 20 th
	Advent 2 Purple		Advent 3 Purple		
Ashfield	8.30am Holy Communion GB	X	4pm Evening Prayer VB	X	X
Charsfield with Debach		7.30pm Carol Concert with Ipswich Hospital Band GB	X	X	X
Cretingham		X	10am Morning Prayer CW	X	X
Dallinghoo		X	4pm Holy Communion GB	X	3.30pm Carol Service GB
Earl Soham		X	10am Morning Prayer WVG	X	X
Hoo		X	8.30am Holy Communion GB	X	X
Letheringham		X	X	X	X
Monewden	10am Benefice Toy Service GB	X	10am Holy Communion GB	6.30pm Carol Service GB	X



Date	Readings	Psalm
December 7 th Benefice Service	Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	72:1-7
December 14 th	James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	146:4-10
December 21 st	Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-end	80:1-8
December 25 th Christmas Day	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14	96
December 28 th	Hebrews 2:10-end Matthew 2:13-end	148



Church	December 21 st	December 22 nd	December 24 th	December 25 th	December 28 th
	Advent 4 Purple		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day White	1st after Christmas White
Ashfield	8.30am Holy Communion GB	7pm Carol Service GB	X	X	X
Charsfield with Debach	10am Holy Communion GB	X	9pm Christmas Holy Communion GB	X	X
Cretingham	4pm Carol Service WG	X	X	10am Holy Communion WG	X
Dallinghoo	X	X	X	11am Holy Communion GB	X
Earl Soham	6.30pm Carol Service CW	X	6pm Crib Service - GB 11.30pm Midnight Mass - GB	10am All-Age Worship CW	10am Holy Communion with Baptism GB
Hoo	X	X	3pm Carol Service WG	X	X
Letheringham	6pm Carol Service GB	X	X	X	X
Monewden	X	X	X	9.30am Holy Communion GB	X

Key to Service Leader:

GB = Revd Gary Best;

KM = Revd Kathleen Martin;

WG = Revd Wendy Gourlay;

APW = Amber Pearce Williams, Lay Elder;

MV = Mary Vellacott, Lay Elder;

CW = Churchwarden;

VB = Veda Berriman, Reader.



READINGS & CHURCH SERVICES JANUARY 2026



Church	January 4 th	January 11 th	January 18 th	January 25 th
	Epiphany White	Baptism of Christ White	Epiphany 2 White	Epiphany 3 White
Ashfield		4pm Evening Prayer RG	8.30am Holy Communion GB	X
Charsfield with Debach		X	4pm Evening Prayer GB	10am Holy Communion GB
Cretingham		10am Morning Prayer AG	10am Holy Communion WG	X
Dallinghoo	10am Benefice HC Archdeacon Rich + GB Lay Elder Licensing	X	10am All-Age Worship APW	X
Earl Soham		10am All-Age Worship WG	10am Holy Communion GB	10am Morning Prayer CW
Hoo		8.30am Holy Communion GB	X	8.30am Morning Prayer GB
Letheringham		X	X	X
Monewden		10am Holy Communion GB	X	10am All-Age Worship CW

Date	Readings	Psalm
January 4th Benefice Service	Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18	147:13-end
January 11th	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-end	29
January 18th	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	40:1-12
January 25th	Acts 9:1-22 Matthew 19:27-end	67

Key to Service Leader:

GB = Revd Gary Best;

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VB = Veda Berriman, Reader.



Photos from around the Benefice



Dallinghoo Village Hall

**QUIZ
NIGHT**

**17
JAN**

**Arrival from 18:00
Quiz 18:30 sharp**

RAFFLE | QUIZ | 2 COURSE DINNER

Home Cooked Lasagne (meat or vege) & Dessert

£15 per head

To book a place email: dallinghooquiz@gmail.com

Please mention any dietary requirements | max team size 6

DALLINGHOO NOTES continued



DALLINGHOO CARPET BOWLS

We meet at 7.30pm Dallinghoo Village Hall,
Good fun and gentle exercise, no previous
experience necessary.

Meeting Dates:

Wednesday December 3rd
Wednesday December 17th
Wednesday January 7th
Wednesday January 21st
Wednesday February 4th
Wednesday February 18th

**For more details contact
Cliff Green 01473 737431**



HEADS UP!

Future events by the
Dallinghoo Church Repair Fund committee

Saturday 14th February (St Valentine's Day)
Indian Evening in the Dallinghoo Jubilee Hall

Saturday 25th April
Plant Sale 2-4pm.

**"SAVE
the
DATE"**

Saturday 29th November

An event for all the family to enjoy

Christmas Fair

11am - 2pm

- * Crafts & Stalls
- * Santa's Grotto
- * Festive Games
- * Raffle
- * Hog Roast
- * Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate
- * Cake sale
- * Father Christmas

Santa will arrive at 1pm

Dallinghoo Village Hall

Made with Piccadilly.com

ST MARYS EARL SOHAM

BURNS SUPPER

Earl Soham Village Hall

Saturday 31st January 2026

7 for 7.30 pm

Traditional 3 course haggis supper

Piped in by our own 'Highlander'

£13 PER PERSON - (children under 12 years £7)

Victoria Beer/ Wine/ Soft drinks available

Ring Mavis 01728 685700 or Irene 01728 685814

maviskerridge@gmail.com

Book by January 24th

In Aid of St Mary's Church Fabric Fund



EARL SOHAM NOTES

ST MARY'S EARL SOHAM

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE 2025

This outdoor service has been a popular tradition for over 50 years and we would love to keep it going.



We need school age children to take part as various characters (no acting or speaking required) to create the nativity scene whilst the congregation sing carols to narrate the story of Christ's birth.

The Commitment:

- To attend rehearsal on Sunday 21st @ 10am (approx 1hour)
- To be at Earl Soham Church at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve to get ready for the 6 o'clock service –to which all are very welcome
- Costumes provided

Please let Mavis or Charlotte know if you would like your child to take part this year.

Mavis 01728 685700 maviskerridge@gmail.com

Charlotte 07789307976 charlottepeacher242@msn.com

Mavis Kerridge, For St Mary's PCC

ST MARY'S ALTAR AND ROLL OF HONOUR FLOWERS AND BRASSES ROTA

December 2025	Mrs Perry-Freese
January 2026	Mrs Haines
February 2026	Mrs McCormack
Any problems please ring Denise - 685234	



Benefice Services for December and January

Sunday 7th December – St. Mary's, Monewden – 10am

This is an All-Age Benefice Toy Service (see advert in magazine for more details)

Sunday 4th January - St. Mary's, Dallinghoo – 10am

Licensing Service for Lay Elders where we will be joined by Archdeacon Rich Henderson



You can now follow the Benefice of Mid-Loes on Facebook or Instagram - [beneficeofmidloes](#)



Also, keep in touch with the Benefice through:

www.mid-loes.com www.achurchnearyou.com

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CAROL SERVICE

We are now looking forward to and preparing for an important event in the Hoo church calendar, our Carol Service, which as always, will take place at 3pm on Christmas Eve.

The format of Carol Services at Hoo was established many years ago by our former churchwardens, Perry and Margaret, respectful yet relaxed, and very much an occasion for the entire family. This years' Service will be much the same, but with a particular emphasis on encouraging the younger generation to come and participate. Christmas is a time for children, and we hope they will be well represented at 3pm on December 24th.

We will again be having a Memory Tree this year, so people can leave their memories of those who, for whatever reason, cannot be at the Carol Service.

We will be pleased to see plenty of the population of Hoo at the Carol Service, but if you are a "Hooligan" please bring along your family and friends from outside the village as well, so they too can get the festive season off to a good start in a lovely little country church.

Francis Whitbread





Festive Concert of Sacred & Secular choral works



performed by

The Illuminati Choir

<https://www.illuminatichoir.org.uk/>



Saturday 13th December 7pm

St Mary's Church, Letheringham IP13 7QY

Admission Free:

Mulled wine and mince pies to be served
at the interval

Donations in aid of the church restoration
fund would be much appreciated

LEATHERINGHAM NOTES



SAVE THE DATES

Saturday 13th December 2025

7pm - Festive Concert performed by The Illuminati Choir at St. Mary's Church

Sunday 21st December 2025

6pm Carol Concert

PHOTOS FROM ACROSS THE BENEFICE



Communion with lunch

Photos from across the Benefice

If you have a photo taken at a local church event, or from within and around our churches, or if you are able to take a scenic photo of the beautiful countryside in which our benefice sits, please send your photos through for inclusion in the new, 'Photos from around the Benefice' pages, or a picture that might work as a front cover.

Please send your photos to midloesmagazine@gmail.com



You can now follow the Benefice of Mid-Loes on Facebook or Instagram - [beneficeofmidloes](https://www.facebook.com/beneficeofmidloes)



Also, keep in touch with the Benefice through:

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MONWEDEN
CAROL SERVICE
& CHRISTMAS
CHEERS

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

6.30PM CAROLS
IN THE CHURCH

7.30PM CHEERS
AT THE POP UP PUB

THE OLD MILL

MULLED WINE • REAL ALE • WINE • LAGER
• LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED •
• CHRISTMAS 100 CLUB DRAW •



MONEWDEN NOTES

READERS

December To Be Announced.

SATURDAY CAFÉ

The usual SATURDAY CAFÉ will not operate in December.

100 CLUB PRIZES

1 £25 J. Marshall; 2 £15 F. Watts;
3 £15 A. Dorsett.

TOY SERVICE

This year we will be a Benefice Service and will be held at St. Mary's Monewden at 10 a.m. on December 7. Both the toys and collection will be donated to the Salvation Army. Major Alan Hill from the Salvation Army will be present.

CAROL SERVICE AND POP UP PUB

The Carol Service this year at Monewden will be held on Friday, December 19, at 6.30 p.m., to be followed by the Pop Up Pub in the Village Hall. More details elsewhere in the magazine.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

This will be a Holy Communion Service at 9.30 a.m. and will be taken by Rev. Gary Best

Sunday December 28th: The only service in the Benefice will be at Earl Soham.

There will be no Thursday Home Communion at Firs Farm in either December or January of next year.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Please could the usual helpers who decorate the church for Christmas do so before the Carol Service. Thank you.

MONEWDEN P.C.C. wishes everyone a

Happy Christmas
and **Blessed and Peaceful New Year**

The Churchwardens and P.C.C. would like to thank all the people who were involved with church activities during the year, also all those who helped in any way with the many events, whether donating gifts or draw prizes or contributing their valuable time.

SATURDAY CAFÉ

Our next SATURDAY CAFÉ will be on Saturday January 17, 2026, from 10 a.m. onwards in the Village Hall. Coffee, tea and breakfast rolls will be served. Come and join us, this monthly event is now very popular. The 100 Club draw prizes for January will be drawn at this event.

SATURDAY CAFÉ

Monewden's SATURDAY CAFÉ continues to grow in popularity and attracts visitors from the whole Benefice and beyond. Currently, three voluntary teams do the necessary work (for about four hours in total) four times a year. Taking orders, cooking and serving is undoubtedly great fun but if there were three more volunteers, each team would only need to enjoy the fun three times a year! If you might be interested to join us, we would be thrilled to hear from you. Please contact Jill Vonberg on 07973 716478.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please use the Prayer Boxes found in all the benefice churches
or email midloesprayer@gmail.com



Benefice of Mid-Loes

TOY SERVICE

St. Mary's Church,
Monewden, IP13 7DA

Sunday 7th December - 10am

A service for the whole family.

Help prepare the church Christmas Tree and, if you are able, please bring a wrapped or unwrapped new gift for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present this year.

**All gifts collected will be distributed by
The Salvation Army.**

Major Alan Hill from The Salvation Army will also be present at the service, talking to us about the work of The Salvation Army at this time of year.



For further information,
please contact:
Rev'd Gary Best
01728 685 550
midloesoffice@gmail.com



MONEWDEN NOTES *continued*

CHURCH ROTAS

Date	Flowers/Brasses	Church Cleaning	Sidesperson	Coffee
Dec. 7	BENEFICE TOY SERVICE AT MONEWDEN			
Dec. 14	J. Vonberg	J. Vonberg	W. Heath	C. Saxby
Dec. 28	C. Saxby	W. Heath	P. Keeble	L. Grier
Jan. 11	F. Watts	M. Sills	B. Martin	W. Heath
Jan. 26	W. Heath	L. Grier	D. Grier	C. Saxby



BENEFICE CHOIR

If you would like to join a group of committed singers who come together on the first Sunday of the month at our benefice services, then please read on. Whether you are an experienced singer or have a good ear and the ability to 'pick up a tune', then please come along and join us at the next benefice service, details of which are on the front cover of this magazine. The Benefice Choir is developing a growing repertoire of Choral Music, Anthems, Psalms and Chants, and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us to sing at these well supported services.

If you would like further information, please contact Jonathan Lettin - lettins@me.com



'Revd Kathleen preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves'



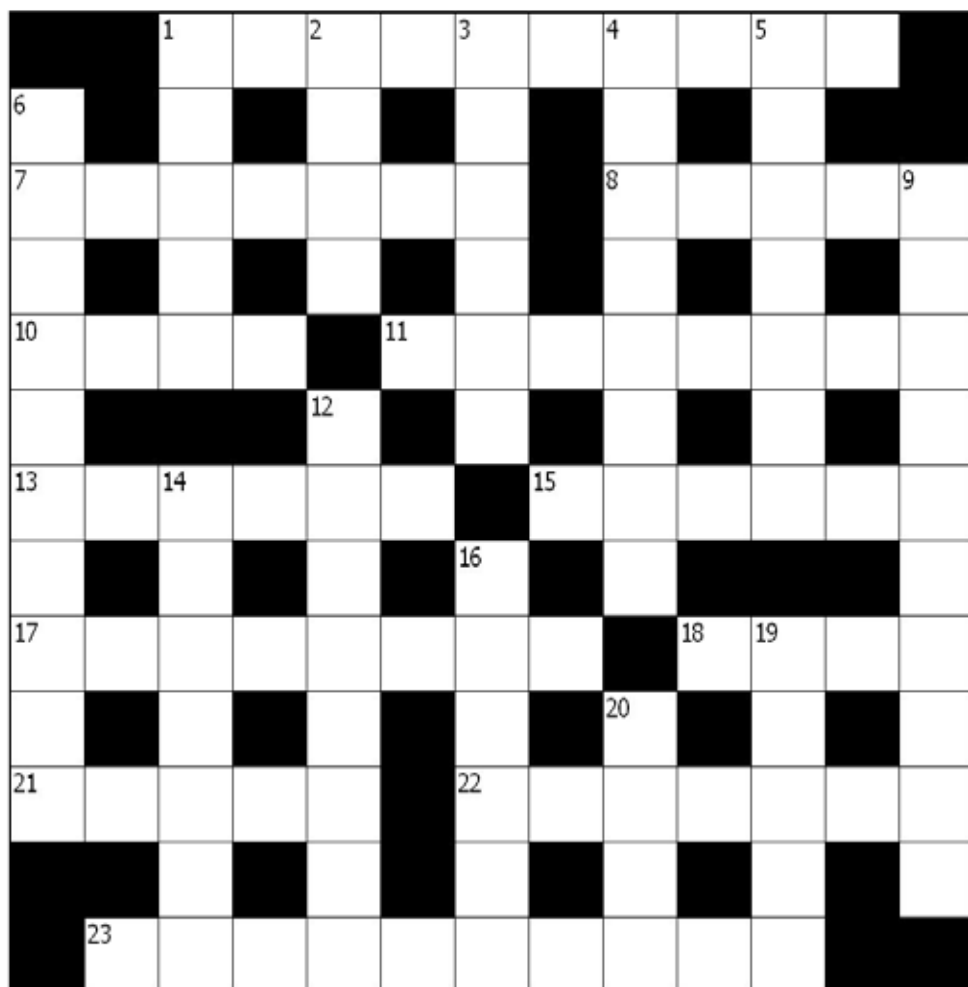
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our advertising Manager who will be pleased to give you full details.**

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Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

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A dementia-friendly dance class. Share the joy of movement and music with your loved ones!

10.00am-12.00pm

Session will run from 10.30-11.30am with 30 minutes of refreshments before and after.

**12 December
9 and 23 January**

From February 2026: 1st
and 3rd Friday of every
month.

Just turn up! For enquiries
call 01473 295230.

**Worlingworth
Community Centre
Shop Street
Worlingworth
IP13 7HX**

FREE!



Photos: Rachel Cherry, DanceEast

USEFUL CONTACTS

CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS

Ashfield	Mrs Sarah Clare E-mail: actpc.clerk@gmail.com Tel: 01449 781671
Charsfield	Viviane Ward E-mail: charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel: 07710 187570
Cretingham	Acting Clerk : Caroline Saxby E-mail: cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com
Dallinghoo	Chris Ling E-mail: dallinghoo@outlook.com Tel: 07963305205
Earl Soham	Guy Harvey E-mail: espcclerk@gmail.com Tel: 01728 685729
Hoo	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)
Letheringham	Mr Trevor Gill E-mail: letheringhamparishcouncil@gmail.com Website: https://letheringham.onesuffolk.net
Monewden	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)

VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKING SECRETARIES

Ashfield	Geoff Henney Tel: 07507 040041 Email: sueandgeoffhenney@hotmail.co.uk
Charsfield	Website: www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk Email: enquiries@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk Or Tel: 07935 445193
Dallinghoo	Mr Chris Pennington Tel: 01473 737 836 Village Hall Committee
Earl Soham	Tel: 07961 606647 Email: esvhbookings@gmail.com Website: earlsohamvillagehall.org
Monewden	Sian Kingston Tel: 07887606717 Email: sian@rskingston.com

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

ASHFIELD	Community Council	Ms Sam Thomas	07985 807683
“	Ladies Group	Mrs Susan Hansen	01728 685 738
CHARSFIELD	CEVC Primary School	Mr Mark Taylor	01473 737 347
“	WI Secretary	Mrs Rosalin Baley	01473 737171
“	Rec. Ground Com	charsfieldrc@gmail.com	
“	Tennis Club	charsfieldrgttennis@yahoo.com	
“	Flower Show Secretary	Mrs Pip Smith	01473 277166
“	Village Hall	Pam Hembra committee@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk	
CRETINGHAM	Friends of St. Peters	Mr Charles Wright	01728 684 065
DALLINGHOOD	Rec. Ground Com.	Mr Derek Spall	01473 737 565
“	Carpet Bowls Club	Mr Cliff Green	01473 737 421
“	Village Hall Com.	Mr Derek Spall	01473 737 565
EARL SOHAM	FO St. Mary's	Mr John Stott	01728 861 340
“	Primary School	Mrs Jen Carlyle	01728 685 359
“	WI Secretary	Eleri Whitham	01728 628614
“	Village Hall Secretary	Mrs Susie Starke	01728 684 385
“	100 Club	Janice Meakin	07921 263632
“	Tennis Club	Mrs Mary Patterson	01728 685 362
“	Bowls Club	Martin Dorey	01728 684880
“	Scouts/Cubs/Beavers	1dv.group@suffolkscouts.org.uk	01728 723 712
“	Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	Marion Russell	01728 684840
“	Carpet Bowls Club	Chris Pratt	07395 918937
	Allotment/Gardeners Association	Mr Tony Carr	07717 302214



Mouse Makes

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....
read Luke 2:7

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....
read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRÏDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA

JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

WHO'S WHO ACROSS THE PARISHES

EARL SOHAM

Churchwardens	Dr. John Elmore, Hill Farm, Earl Soham	01728 685 814
Secretary	Mrs. Mavis Kerridge, The Malt House, Earl Soham	01728 685 700
Treasurer	Christopher Pratt, 5 Clarke Drive, Framlingham	07395 918 937

HOO

Churchwardens	Vacancy	
Secretary	Mr Trevor Branton, The Poplars, Pound Hill, Dallinghoo	01473 737 246
Treasurer	Mr Francis Whitbread, Archers Keep, Butts Lane, Debenham. Email fwhitbread57@gmail.com	07788 563827

LEATHERINGHAM

Churchwardens	Vacancy	
Secretary	Janet Ross, Pips Cottage, Cooks Hill, Letheringham Email jeross1@me.com	01728 746228 07736 120931
Treasurer	Terence Carlin. Email terence.carlin@btinternet.com	01728 746480

MONNEWDEN

Churchwardens	David Grier, Northgates, Monewden Mr Brian Martin, Firs Farm, Monewden	01473 737 298 01473 737 285
Secretary	Mrs. Caroline Saxby, Maple Ho, Rookery Rd. Mon'den	01473 277 146
Treasurer	David & Lesley Grier, Northgates, Monewden	01473 737 298

**In order to keep this information up to date
please inform the Editor of changes as they occur.**

midloesmagazine@gmail.com

Crossword Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

**THE DEADLINE for contributions panel
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026 ISSUE is
SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY**

Christmas Services

Ashfield

December 22nd – Carol Service – 7pm

Charsfield-with-Debach

December 12th – Carol Service – 7.30pm

December 24th – Christmas Holy Communion – 9pm

Cretingham

December 21st – Carol Service – 4pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion – 10am

Dallinghoo

December 20th – Carol Service – 3.30pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion – 11am

Earl Soham

December 21st – Carol Service – 6.30pm

December 24th – Crib Service – 6pm

December 24th – Midnight Mass – 11.30pm

Christmas Day – All-Age Worship – 10am

Hoo

December 24th – Carol Service – 3pm

Letheringham

December 21st – Carol Service – 6pm

Monewden

December 7th – Benefice Toy Service – 10am

December 19th – Carol Service – 6.30pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion – 9.30am