

## MID LOES BENEFICE

Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach  
Crettingham, Dallinghoo, Earl Soham,  
Hoo, Letheringham & Monewden.



DECEMBER 2011  
JANUARY 2012

## From the Rector

Dear friends

"Your busy time, vicar!"

Well yes, the Christmas season does bring extra services and a lot of singing of carols, but on the other hand there are probably slightly fewer meetings to attend - at least over the bank holiday period. In the popular mind, I guess that those who make their annual pilgrimage to church at Christmas are more likely to see me, so it will appear so; and if TV crime dramas are anything to go by, they may believe that I do actually live in the church building. That, at least, rather than the vicarage, is where the detectives go when they want to question the vicar. And sure enough, he's always there, dusting the hymnbooks or just hanging about doing nothing much. But I digress....

Many people may find they are busier than usual in "the run up to Christmas" as Advent has now become. The question is: busy doing what? This letter is not going to be a diatribe against Christmas shopping and worship of mammon. Clergy are not immune to present-buying and mince-pie consumption, and any thinking person can see the commercial cashing-in on a supposedly religious festival, without having it spelt out for them, and hopefully will not be swept along with it or feel pressured to spend what they cannot afford to. My worry is always precisely with those who feel the need to compete - for the sake, they believe, of their children - but do not have the wherewithal to do so. It is always sad to hear parents without much money to spare say they simply have to ensure their children have the latest piece of technology or the expensive trainers. Somehow, "putting the children first" seems to have become 'buying them expensive things' - which is precisely the message the advertisers want to put across, but which must be resisted at all costs. Certainly, children of clergy - and probably children of many readers of this magazine - very quickly learn that that's not how it works.

We express our love for our children in other ways, which are actually more appreciated.

So by all means 'be busy' at Christmas, but not busier than you want to be. And although I haven't mentioned the birth of Jesus directly in this letter, you will know what it is that we should not allow our busy-ness to distract us from.

Happy Christmas  
***Stephen Brian***

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**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

Come and join us for our in-depth look at Matthew's Gospel. We meet at 7::30pm in Monewden Village Hall on the Tuesdays in Advent:

- Tuesday 6th December
- Tuesday 13th December
- Tuesday 20th December

***SFB***



**PLEASE NOTE AN ALTERATION**  
**TO THE LIST OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
**INSIDE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD!**

**There will NOT be a Service at Midnight on Christmas Eve  
at ASHFIELD.**

**This Service will now be at CRETINGHAM**

**Services in other Churches remain as printed.**

***Editor***



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## **FRAMLINGHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER**

### **New doctor!**

I am delighted to tell you that we have a new doctor who will be joining the surgery in the New Year. Dr Mike Barstow is currently a GP in Derbyshire but wishes to move to Suffolk to be closer to family members. Dr Barstow and his wife have two young boys and are looking forward to the move. I am sure you will join us in welcoming Dr Barstow and his family to Framlingham in January.

### **Dr Moffatt**

Dr Robbie Moffatt has asked me to pass on his thanks for the good wishes and generosity towards his retirement gift – he is planning to buy something for his boat!

### **Medication wastage**

Every year a great deal of money is wasted on drugs that are not used. There are a number of ways that you can help to avoid waste:

- Only order repeat prescriptions that you **need**
- Buy non-prescription medications such as paracetamol or ‘calpol’ over the counter.
- Arrange for regular reviews of your medication – your repeat slip will tell you when you need to make an appointment for a medication review.

### **Cervical screening**

In Suffolk, many women aged between 25 and 50 years old are not attending for their routine cervical smears. This quick, easy and painless test is a vital part of process of detecting abnormalities of the cervix and the doctors would encourage EVERY woman to take part in the screening programme. We recognise that many of you may be working and find it difficult to get to the surgery during opening hours – we have therefore started a late Practice Nurse clinic on a Monday evening to offer appointments. Please phone 01728 723627 if your cervical smear is overdue.

### **Are you a carer?**

We are interested in identifying carers, especially those people who may be caring without help or support. A ‘Carer’ is someone who provides or supervises a substantial amount of care on a regular basis to a child, relative, partner or neighbour who is unable to manage on their own due to illness, disability, frailty, mental distress or impairment. If you believe you may be a carer, please ask at Reception for a CARERS QUESTIONNAIRE and let us know about your caring responsibilities.

### **And finally....Self referral to physiotherapy**

The NHS physiotherapy service has changed the way you can get an appointment. You no longer need to visit your GP for a referral. Physiotherapy may be particularly beneficial if you suffer from:

- \*Low Back Pain; \*Neck Pain; \*Recent strains and sprains;
- \*Joint Muscular pain.

Visit the website for direct contact with a physiotherapist and assessment

**[www.ahpsuffolk.co.uk](http://www.ahpsuffolk.co.uk)**

***Sally Kitt***  
***Practice Manager.***



## **ASHFIELD cum THORPE NOTES**

### **ASHFIELD CAROL SINGING— 15th December 2011.**

The annual Carol Singing around Ashfield will take place on the 15th December this year. As usual we will meet at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall car park.

You do not have to be a great singer, enthusiasm is more important than talent, so do just turn up and join in with us. It is always a great night to put everyone in the Christmas spirit. We shall be collecting for Cancer Research as usual.

If you need any more information please contact Doreen Baxter (01728 685617), Gill Knight (01728 685512) or Wendy Jephcote (01728 685101).

### **ASHFIELDCHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER, 7:00 for 7:30pm**

Admission £2.00 to include refreshments

Bar open, Victoria bitter on sale

Looking forward to seeing you!



*Myles Hansen*

### **ASHFIELD FOOTPATHS GROUP**

An annual audit of the entire network of footpaths and bridleways within Ashfield was recently carried out. With the exception of one short length of path all were found to be accessible and in a usable condition. Hopefully by the time you are reading this most of the cross-field paths will have been sprayed out too making them so much easier to traverse.

During the coming months we will be looking to replace signage at a busy multi directional intersection along with three waymark posts which have either decayed or been damaged. We will call upon SCC Rights of Way to clear the obstructed path and also surface trim another path before that becomes too overgrown and difficult to negotiate.

Hoping that the weather will be kind so as to enable many of you to go out walking over the Christmas and New Year period! Should you encounter any problems whilst out walking our footpaths do please tell one of us so that the problem can be rectified, thank you.

*Colin [685478].*

*Malcolm [685452].*

*Robert [685203].*

*RG.*

### **BUILDINGS UPDATE**

I am delighted to be able to tell you that St Mary's is again watertight. By the time you are reading this I am expecting that all of the scaffolding will have been removed. The workmanship has been carried out to a very good standard and whilst the project has taken a little longer than anticipated I would sooner have that than a rushed job and find ourselves having to carryout repairs in a couple of years time.

We have now instructed our architect to get the builder to install new guttering around the whole building, this should take place very soon and will complete all the works requiring scaffolding for the time being. In the spring, funds permitting, we shall be able to get the new drains dug out and repiped to get the water away from the building more effectively.

***PARISH APPEAL.***

Relative to the above building works every household in Ashfield has recently received an appeal letter soliciting your support in the form of donations to fund the above exciting project. I hope very much we can count upon your help to carry out these vital works to preserve our Church for future generations in just the same way our predecessors did for us!

If you know of anyone, maybe former residents of Ashfield who may like to support this appeal please do tell them about it.

Thank you for the support that you have given us so far that is greatly appreciated by us all.

***CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE.***

We are indebted to Chris Webb who has again agreed to provide us with a Christmas tree for the church.

Chris grows Christmas trees for sale, if you are looking for one without driving miles then just give him a ring on 01728 685427.



**SEASONS GREETINGS**

On behalf of everyone at St Mary's I would like to take this opportunity to wish you

a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

*Robert Grimsey*

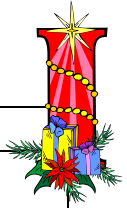
**BREAKING NEWS**

I am pleased to advise everyone that following my 'Buildings Update' above, funds have come in which enable us to proceed with the installation of new guttering around the whole roof of St Mary's. The architect has been asked to instruct the builder to proceed with this immediately. There is one downside to this being done in that the water being discharged from the new guttering will be dispersed out into the churchyard to get the water away from the building. To enable this there will temporarily be some pipework on the surface around the building. Whilst these will be clearly marked I would urge everyone entering the churchyard to be mindful of the obstacles. Hopefully the new subterranean drainage will be installed early in the New Year so that these hazards can be removed.

***RG.***

# CHARSFIELD with DEBACH NOTES

## Church Rotas for December and January



| Date                          | Reader                                                                     | Sidesperson     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>DECEMBER 4th<br/>10 am</b> | Benefice Holy Communion<br>at Cretingham,                                  |                 |
| 6.30 pm                       | 11th<br>1. Pauline Llewellyn<br>2. Michael Bamford                         | Kathryn Bamford |
| 6/30 pm                       | 18th<br>Carol Service<br>To be arranged                                    |                 |
| 11.30 pm                      | 24th<br>Midnight Holy Communion<br>1. Antony Wilson<br>2. Graham Vellacott | Pamela Spivey   |
| 25th                          | CHRISTMAS DAY<br>11 am Joint Service at Charsfield Baptist Chapel          |                 |
| <b>JANUARY 1st<br/>10 am</b>  | Benefice Holy Communion<br>at Ashfield                                     |                 |
| 6.30 pm                       | 8th<br>1. Roger Pulham<br>2. Pamela Spivey                                 | Kathryn Bamford |
| 10 am                         | 15th<br>Sheila Green<br>Graham Vellacott                                   | Pamela Spivey   |
| 10 am                         | 22nd<br>1. Ros Wilson<br>2. Stephanie Davies                               | Ros Wilson      |
| 29th                          | No Service                                                                 |                 |
| <b>FEBRUARY 5th<br/>10am</b>  | Benefice Holy Communion<br>at Letheringham                                 |                 |

### Cleaning Rota for December 2011

| 3rd           | 10th             | 17th        | 24th            |                   |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Fran<br>Clare | Gill<br>Beverley | Ros<br>Lucy | Angela<br>Joyce | Sheila<br>Pauline |

### Cleaning Rota for January 2012

| 1st               | 8th           | 15th             | 22nd        | 29th            |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Lucy<br>Stephanie | Fran<br>Clare | Gill<br>Beverley | Ros<br>Lucy | Angela<br>Joyce |

***Flower Rota for December 2011***

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| 4th & 11th | 18th & 25th         |
| Lucy Fox   | Everyone -Christmas |

***Flower Rota for January 2012***

|                         |            |               |                        |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1st                     | 8th & 15th | 22nd & 329th  | <b>FEB.</b> 5th & 12rh |
| Everyone -<br>Christmas | Pam Spivey | Anthea Pulham | Pauline Llewellyn      |

***FROM THE ARCHIVES of 'THE CHURCH REVIEW'***

(believed to be from the early 1900's)

“At Charsfield, a few miles from Ipswich, during the present summer the Rector informed the assembled congregation that he was going away for a month, and the church would be closed. And closed it was, and for that period the sick and dying, as well as the hale and hearty, were left without spiritual or religious service. True it was that a vicar's daughter, out of a neighbouring parish, took compassion on the sheep without a shepherd and came over and gave lectures on Sunday evenings in the school room. The squire of the parish was much annoyed and undertook, on his part, to give the annual treat to the schoolchildren, but we much regret he did not call the attention of the bishop to such scandalous neglect.”

***Pam Spivey***

**SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**

**You can read the full report on [www.charsfield.org.uk](http://www.charsfield.org.uk)**

The Police have recently caught more than 9,000 people speeding on our stretch of the 1078 and several have been prosecuted. They will continue their efforts to make Charsfield's roads safer so WATCH YOUR SPEED throughout the village.

The Parish Council has committed to providing 30 mph roundels on the B1078 at either end of the village and to explore the possibility of extending the 30mph zone.

Each new entrant to Charsfield school next September will receive The Lion First Bible to keep, thanks to the Parish Council.'

A leaflet entitled “Walks Around Charsfield” has been published and is available free from Bridge Garage or Ed Winkworth.

Dog fouling is on the increase in the village, particularly on the grass verges of The Street and the Recreation Ground. You can be fined £1000 for allowing your dog to foul a public place so please remember to clear up after your dog.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 and the public are always most welcome. Future dates for meetings will be posted on the village web site and published in the parish magazine.

*Jan Pedgrift*

***FRIENDS of the THREE HORSESHOES, CHARSFIELD—FROTH—Latest News***

We are taking the next step in our campaign to get the Three Horseshoes open again by setting up a Community Benefit Society (a bit like a company but for community enterprises): Charsfield Three Horseshoes Community Pub Limited.

Shortly, we will be launching our ‘prospectus’, inviting everyone to become members of the Society (and have a vote in how it’s run) and invest to get the pub going again and back into the heart of our village.

Meanwhile, dates for your diary:

**FROTH party/meeting Saturday 17 December**, Charsfield Village Hall, Real ale bar and food. All welcome!

**FROTH 'pop up pub'** in The Street, Charsfield, **Xmas day lunchtime** 12-3. Real ale bar and pre-lunch snacks. All welcome! Bring all the family! **Charsfield's first ever pop up pub - for one day only!**

**FROTH new year's eve party** - 31 December 2011, Charsfield Village Hall, Real ale bar and food. Admission £5 for adults, kids free.

Tickets from Pauline at 6 St Peter's Close, the Teapot in Wickham Market, or Charsfield Garage.

All welcome!

More information and details of our activities are on [www.froth.org.uk](http://www.froth.org.uk)”

*David, for FROTH*

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**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:**

**Stephen Brian - 01728 685 308**

**Jan Chenery - 01473 737 425**

**Kathleen Martin - 01473 737 285**

**Pauline Cobley - 01473 737 317**

**All requests are treated in the strictest confidence**

*The Revd Dr. Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'.*

### **On the peril of choosing new kneelers**

The Rectory, St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the relief of Mafeking and a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then has to leave Matins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, now sounds like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next Millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our services; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions of St. Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such tasteful scenes; on the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism.... and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.“

Your Loving Uncle,  
Eustace

## CRETINGHAM NOTES



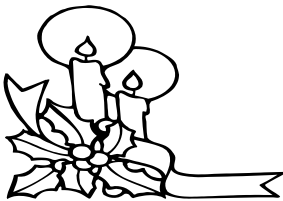
### Church Rotas

|          |               |                 |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|
|          | Altar Flowers | Cleaning        |
| December | Mrs Defoe     | Runacres Family |
| January  | Mrs Mayhew    | Mrs Defoe       |

**BEETLE DRIVE** – fast and furious, moving around so everyone gets to chat with everyone! Dice flying off tables and shouts of BEETLE! A warming hot sausage casserole in red wine hit the spot on a cold damp night. Thank you to everyone who came and made it a grand evening raising £300 for the Church.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** – the sun shone through the windows of the church as we remembered those who fell in the Great war as well as families and friends in conflicts since. A moving moment when the names were read off the memorial outside of those who lost their lives from Cretingham. David Boyes returned to Cretingham to take our service, sharing with us a personal family reason for remembering on this day and we thank him for this.

**BENEFICE SERVICE** – is being held in CRETINGHAM on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – do please come and join us. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Service starts at 10 am and we are looking forward to welcoming all our friends from neighbouring parishes.



Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
10 am to 12 noon  
come and see us in  
St. Peters Church, Cretingham  
with Flower displays depicting  
**"A Balmoral Christmas"**

Also enjoy ....

Hot mince pies and hot sausage rolls with a cup of tea/coffee  
Christmas Gifts to browse  
Cake Stall full of wonderful goodies  
Chance to win a wonderful Christmas Cake fully decorated  
Quality bric-a-brac and books to rummage through!  
Christmas music to hum along to ....



**Candlelit Carol Service with Traditional  
Nine Lessons and Carols in St. Peters Cretingham.  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 4 pm.  
Everyone Welcome.**

CAROL SINGING around the Village.  
Bring your torches and voices - wrap up warm!

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Everyone gathering at 6.30 pm in the Bell car park.



Christmas Eve 'Midnight' Service  
with Holy Communion at 11.30 pm - do join us.

Christmas Day 10 am in St. Peters, Cretingham to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.  
Everyone of all ages will be warmly welcome  
on this magnificent day.

**New Year's Eve** - 31<sup>st</sup> December 11.45pm

COMPLINE

in St. Peters, a reflective time - do come and join us.

### ***JANUARY 2012***

Just to let you know that EVENING PRAYER will start at 4 pm (taking a lead from the popular time of our Carol Service) in the New Year while we have the dark evenings. It was a suggestion made to us and we thought we would trial it—let us know what you think!?

### ***FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:***

Social/Quiz Night on Saturday 17th March at Kettleburgh with hot supper and Bar.

Easter Stall & Coffee Morning is on Saturday 7th April from 10am to 12 noon in church.



*Heather Runacres*

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**CONNECT & ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS SUFFERING FOR THEIR FAITH!**

This Christmas, why not send a Christmas card to a Christian who is facing some sort of persecution, or even imprisonment, for their faith?

Christian Solidarity Worldwide has a scheme called ‘Connect & Encourage’ which helps you to do just that. CSW works for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights worldwide, and can provide you with names and addresses of people to contact.

As CSW explains: “Often we can't visit those who are persecuted for their faith, but we can still encourage them. You can be an encouragement by sending these prisoners a card or a letter to bring them hope. This touches them right where they are, demonstrating that they're not forgotten. Your cards also remind the prison authorities that we haven't forgotten the injustice of the prisoner's situation, and are persistently advocating for their welfare in the international community.”

The people listed in Connect & Encourage – from human rights activists and lawyers to church leaders, persecuted Christians and their families – benefit tremendously from your letters or cards.

For more details, go to: [www.csw.org.uk/connectandencourage.htm](http://www.csw.org.uk/connectandencourage.htm)

*Parish Pump*

# DALLINGHOO NOTES

## Church Rotas



| Date                  | Service/Readers                                                           | Sidespeople                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| December 4th<br>10 am | Benefice Holy Communion<br>at CRETINGHAM                                  |                                |
| 11th<br>10 am         | To Monewden for shared<br>TOY SERVICE                                     |                                |
| 18th<br>3.30 pm       | CAROL SERVICE<br>Readers to be arranged                                   | Mrs. S. Arbon<br>Mrs. S. West  |
| 25th<br>10 am         | CHRISTMAS DAY<br>Communion by Extension<br>Mr. P. Taylor<br>Mrs. S. Arbon | Mr. & Mrs. L. Arbon            |
| January 1st<br>10 am  | Benefice Holy Communion<br>at ASHFIELD                                    |                                |
| 8th<br>10 am          | Holy Communion<br>Mr. P. Taylor<br>Mrs. S. West                           | Mrs. S. Arbon<br>Mrs. S. West  |
| 15th<br>10 am         | Family Service<br>Readers to be arranged                                  | Mrs. B. Cole<br>Mrs. P. Turner |
| 22nd<br>6.30 pm       | Evening Prayer<br>Mr. P. Taylor<br>Mrs. P. Turner                         | Mr. & Mrs. L. Arbon            |
| 29th<br>6.30 pm       | Songs of Praise<br>Mr. P. Taylor<br>Mrs. S. Arbon                         | Mr. & Mrs. L. Arbon            |
| February 5th<br>10 am | Benefice Holy Communion<br>at LETHERINGHAM                                |                                |

### Flower & Cleaning Rota for December

| December<br>4th & 11th | 18th<br>Christmas                    | 25th<br>Christmas | January 1st   |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. L. Arbon    | Mrs. L. Barry<br>All Helpers, Please |                   | Mrs. L. Barry |

### ***DALLINGHOO HARVEST SUPPER***

Thanks to everyone who made this another memorable evening; all who did the cooking, our excellent waiters, Mandy for organising the quiz and all other helpers. A total of over £300 was made and will boost our church funds.

### ***BONFIRE NIGHT***

Another successful night was the Bonfire Night which was organised by Derek and his Helpers. Thanks to Peter and Jason for a magnificent firework display and all who supported this event.

### ***THE LATE KEN MARTIN***

We send our condolences to Janet and the family on the loss of Ken. Our prayers are with you at this sad time.

### ***WELCOME!***

We welcome newcomers Lizzy Day and her family, Lucy, Jayden and Charlie into the village. We hope they will be very happy in their new home.

*Primrose Turner*

*Forward Date for your Diaries*

Next year's **DALLINGHOO SAFARI SUPPER** will take place on  
**Saturday 3rd March 2012.**

Further details will follow.

If you haven't joined in this superb evening before and would like to do so, please contact me on 01473 277018 or e-mail [all.lings@btopenworld.com](mailto:all.lings@btopenworld.com)

*Linda Ling*

### ***DALLINGHOO CARPET BOWLS***

We meet at Dallinghoo Jubilee Hall on alternate Wednesdays at 7.30pm. No experience is necessary—help and encouragement is available! The dates are:

December are 7th, and 21st.

January are 4th and 18th

We can promise a warm welcome, lots of fun and a pleasant evening. Do join us. More information from Cliff Green—01473 737421

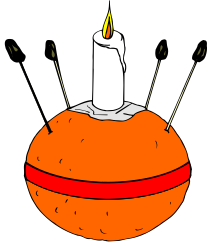
*Cliff Green*



Just got home and found all the windows and doors open and everything has gone.

What kind of sick twisted person does that to someone's advent calendar?

## \* Christmas: The story of the Christingle



The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that. But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meager gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country.

Visit: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)



## ***EARL SOHAM NOTES***

| <b><i>Rota for the Altar and Roll of Honour Flowers and Brasses 2011/2012</i></b> |                     |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| December                                                                          | Mrs. Tinkler—685278 | Mrs. Patterson—685362 |
| January                                                                           | Mary Simpson        | Linda Lancaster       |
| If you are unable to do your flowers and brasses please contact Lyn on 685278.    |                     |                       |

I would like to thank all the ladies who clean the brasses and supply flowers for the Church. It always looks beautifully kept and I am sure it is much appreciated by all the congregation and visitors. Thank you for your help and support.

*Lyn 685278*

### ***CAROL SERVICE—CHRISTMAS GIFTS***

We will again be collecting gifts to take to the **Ormiston Children's Centre**. Gifts of toys well labelled for the age group and whether suitable for a boy or girl or any suitable gift for the whole family will be very welcome and should be brought to the Church at the **Carol Service** or delivered to the **Church on Saturday 17th December**. Our Harvest gifts were very much appreciated and a card was sent to the church from the children to thank us and I know that Christmas gifts will also be appreciated

### ***CHRISTMAS CRIB***

The time has come round again for the planning of our ~Christmas crib. This will take place on **CHRISTMAS EVE 24th DECEMBER at 6.30pm outside the ~Church**

We will be planning this about **8th December** and if any young person(5-15 years) would like to take part would you please contact me on **01728 685 423** before that date. We particularly need to know of those who would be happy to ride a pony for the Kings and those who have a quiet pony that they would be willing to bring and lead their pony. There will be a practice for all the cast (not ponies) on **Sunday 18th December at 10am at the Church.**

**Don't forget to give me a ring if you would like to take part—everyone welcome**

**Volunteers for building up the Crib will be needed on Saturday 17th December at 9.30am. Please let Graham know if you are able to help.**

*Mary Vellacott*





The Trustees of the Friends of St. Mary's send the warmest of Christmas greetings, and thank you for your continuing support.

We are glad to report that the restoration of the organ is being carried out at the moment, and should be completed early in December, just in time for Christmas. We hope you will enjoy the improvement in the noise it makes.

We plan to have a variety of fund raising events next year; please keep an eye on the Magazine and our web-page for the advertising of these.

Best wishes,

***EARL SOHAM WI***

Our next meeting is on **Thursday December 15th**—the Annual Christmas Party with entertainment.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our meetings which are held in Earl Soham Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

*Jan Whitfield*

***EARL SOHAM VILLAGE HALL***

We are sorry we had to cancel the Quiz Night planned for the 12th November due to lack of support. There were simply not enough people coming to make it an enjoyable evening and worth while going ahead. We may reschedule this event in the new year if there is sufficient interest.

*Anika Weightman*

*Village Hall Fundraising Sub-committee*

To all our friends in Earl Soham and the Mid Loes Benefice

Christmas Greetings &  
Best Wishes for the  
New Year

From  
Vernon & Nella



A donation is given to the Friends of St. Mary's in lieu of cards



was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHURCH SCHOOLS LED THE WAY**

Schools across the country have been celebrating 200 years of church schools. It was in 1811 that the Church of England's National Society was founded—offering education to the poor in every parish—50 years before the State joined in.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has praised the founders of the National Society, who believed it was “inhuman and unjust” to send children up chimneys and down mines, and offered them an opportunity of education.

*Parish Pump*

\* \* \* \* \*

**FILM NEWS**

The Welsh film industry is planning to remake numerous well-known films, but this time with a Welsh flavour. The following are due for limited release in Merthyr Tydfil some time before the new millennium:

- The Lost Boyos
- Sheepless in Seattle
- The Magnificent Severn
- Haverfordwest Was Won
- The Bridge on the River Wye
- The Welsh Patient
- Evans Can Wait
- Dial M for Merthyr



*Contributed by a lady from Powys  
(I accept no responsibility for my relatives—Editor)*



## **SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2011**

| Church                  | December 4<br>Advent 2<br><br><i>Purple</i> | <i>December 11<br/>Advent 3<br/><br/>Purple</i>  | <i>December 18<br/>Advent 4<br/><br/>Purple</i> | SAT. December 24<br>CHRISTMAS EVE<br><br><i>Gold/White</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashfield                | ↓                                           | 6.30pm<br>Evening Prayer                         | 4pm<br>Carol Service                            | —                                                          |
| Charsfield w.<br>Debach | ↓                                           | 6.30pm<br>Evening Prayer                         | 6.30pm<br>Carol Service                         | 11.30pm<br>Midnight Holy<br>Communion                      |
| Cretingham              | 10 am<br>Benefice Holy<br>Communion         | 10am<br>Morning Prayer                           | 4p,m<br>Carol Service                           | 11.30pm<br>Midnight Holy<br>Communion                      |
| Dallinghoo              | ↑                                           | 10am<br>Holy Communion                           | 3.30pm<br>Carol Service                         | —                                                          |
| Earl Soham              | ↑                                           | 8 am<br>Holy Communion<br>10am<br>Holy Communion | 6.30pm<br>Carol Service                         | 6.30pm<br>Crib Service                                     |
| Hoo                     | ↑                                           | —                                                | 8.30am<br>Holy Communion                        | 3 pm<br>Carol Service                                      |
| Letheringham            | ↑                                           | 8.30am<br>Holy Communion                         | 6.30pm<br>Carol Service                         | —                                                          |
| Monewden                | ↑                                           | 10am Family Service                              | To Dallinghoo                                   | —                                                          |
|                         |                                             | <b>Fri.16 Dec. 7pm Carol Service</b>             |                                                 |                                                            |

### **SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY:**

#### Holy Communion

Earl Soham at 8am  
Letheringham at 8.30am  
Monewden at 10am

#### Communion by Extension

Dallinghoo at 10 am

#### Family Service

Cretingham at 10am  
Earl Soham at 10am



## **SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2012**

| Church                  | January 1st<br>Naming &<br>Circumcision of Jesus<br><br><i>Gold/White</i> | January 8<br>Epiphany 1<br><br><i>Gold /White</i> | January 15<br>Epiphany 2<br><br><i>Gold/White</i> | January 22<br>Epiphany 3<br><br><i>Gold/White</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Ashfield                | 10am Benefice<br>Holy Communion                                           | 6.30pm<br>Evening Prayer                          | 10 am<br>Morning Prayer                           | 10 am<br>Holy Communion                           |
| Charsfield w.<br>Debach | ↑                                                                         | 6.30pm<br>Evening Prayer                          | 10 am<br>Holy Communion                           | 10am<br>Morning Prayer                            |
| Cretingham              | ↑                                                                         | 10am<br>Morning Prayer                            | 10 am<br>Holy Communion                           | 4pm<br>Evening Prayer                             |
| Dallinghoo              | ↑                                                                         | 10am<br>Holy Communion                            | 10 am<br>Family Service                           | 6.30 pm<br>Evening Prayer                         |
| Earl Soham              | ↑                                                                         | 10am<br>Morning Prayer                            | 10 am<br>Morning Prayer                           | 8am<br>Holy Communion<br>10am<br>Family Service   |
| Hoo                     | ↑                                                                         | —                                                 | 8.30am<br>Holy Communion                          | 8.30am<br>Morning Prayer                          |
| Letheringham            | ↑                                                                         | 8.30am<br>Holy Communion                          | —                                                 | 10 am<br>Morning Prayer                           |
| Monewden                | ↑                                                                         | 10 am<br>Family Service                           | 6.30 pm<br>Evening Prayer                         | 10 am<br>Holy Communion                           |

**January 29th—Presentation of Christ in the Temple—** is a fifth Sunday.

Services will be:

HOLY COMMUNION at 10am at EARL SOHAM

SONGS OF PRAISE at 6.30pm at DALLINGHOO



**THE BENEFICE SERVICE on 5th FEBRUARY  
at 10am  
will be hosted by LETHERINGHAM**

**ALL WELCOME !**

## *READINGS FOR SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2011*

| Date            | Holy Communion                                 | Morning or Evening Prayer                   | Psalm                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>DEC. 4th</b> | 2 Peter 3: 8– 15a<br>Mark 1: 1-8               |                                             | 85: 8 to end             |
| 11th            | 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24<br>John 1: 6-8, 19-28 | Isaiah 61 1-4, 8-end:<br>John 1: 6-8, 19-28 | 126 or<br>Magnificat     |
| 18th            | Romans 16: 25—end<br>Luke 1: 26-38             | 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16<br>Luke 1: 26-38       | Magnificat or<br>89: 1-8 |
| 24th &<br>25th  | Hebrews 1: 1-12<br>John 1: 1-14                |                                             | 98                       |

## *READINGS FOR SERVICES IN JANUARY 2012*

| Date            | Holy Communion                          | Morning or Evening Prayer          | Psalm     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>JAN. 1st</b> | Galatians 4: 4-7<br>Luke 2: 15-21       |                                    | 8         |
| 8th             | Ephesians 3: 1-12<br>Matthew 2: 1-12    | Isaiah 60: 1-6<br>Matthew 2: 1-12  | 72: 1-9   |
| 15th            | Revelation 5: 1-10<br>John 1: 43—end    | 1 Samuel 1: 1-20<br>John 1: 43-end | 139: 1-9  |
| 22nd            | Revelation 19: 6-10<br>John 2: 1-11     | Genesis 14: 17-20<br>John 2: 1-11  | 89: 19-27 |
| 29th            | Hebrews 2: 14-end<br>Luke 2: 22-40      | Malachi 3: 1-5<br>Luke 2: 22-40    | 24        |
| <b>FEB. 5th</b> | 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23<br>Mark 1: 29-39 | Isaiah 40: 21-end<br>Mark 1: 29-39 | 147: 1-12 |



## **LEATHERINGHAM NOTES**

### *Flowers and Cleaning rota for December 2011*

| <b>3rd</b>   | <b>10th</b>    | <b>17th</b>                    | <b>24th</b> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Polly ffitch | Ruth Holborrow | <b>ALL HELPERS,<br/>PLEASE</b> | Jean Clarke |

### *Flowers and Cleaning Rota for January 2012*

| <b>31st Dec,</b> | <b>7th</b> | <b>14th</b>         | <b>21st</b>       | <b>28th</b>          |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Sylvia Keene     | Ann Young  | <b>Polly ffitch</b> | Ruth<br>Holborrow | Paul & Sue<br>Clarke |

**CAROL SERVICE** with special music, Wednesday 21st December at 6.30pm in Church—followed by a glass of mulled wine—everyone welcome.

**CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION** will be at 8.30am

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Saturday 3rd December** from 10.30-12 noon at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall (ELVH). Mulled wine and mince pies, a great opportunity for Letheringham residents to get to know our neighbours.

**Also December 3rd** at 7pm. The Phoenix Choir conducted by Edmund Fivet will perform Handel's 'Messiah' in Framlingham Church—refreshments in the church hall. Tickets are available at the door.

**Saturday December 10th** from 11am—2pm at ELVH, lots of stalls, soup, rolls, tea, coffee, mince pies.

**Saturday December 17th** from 9am—1pm Christmas Farmers' Market at Easton Farm Park.

Also at Easton Farm Park from **10th—23rd December** special Christmas Wonderland—Father Christmas in his Grotto—Animal Nativity.

**Monday January 16th 2012** at 7.30pm at ELVH, the first Mardle of the New Year—Alan Eklid of Easton will talk about "The Strange World of Patents". As usual a £6 donation includes a glass of wine and canapés

We have a full Mardle programme booked for the next six months—watch out for details in the next magazine.

Advanced notice of other functions at ELVH during the coming year:

**Friday February 3rd**—Quiz Night

This is very popular—book early to avoid disappointment. Ring Mark Kenny on 747572, David Stagg on 746054 or Margie on 746818.

**Saturday February 25th**—Cinema Night. More information in the New Year.

**Friday March 23rd**—Clairvoyant—also very popular last time.

***VOLUNTEER NEEDED***

The Village Hall is anxious to find someone to cut the grass and tend the small garden throughout the Spring and Summer next year. If you could spare the time to do this please ring Ian Palfreman on 747366.

Footnote: In last month's magazine the wrong telephone number was given for West Villa, the hostel for homeless people—please note that the correct number is 01473 433288 and call them if you have anything to spare that would be useful.

*Sylvia Keene*

***ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL***

I did not feel well enough to do the collection, so rang the local organiser who hoped to find someone else to do it, but to no avail. My apologies to all who waited for me to call; I am sorry I let you and the cause down. With hindsight I should have put a notice in the November magazine.

Thank you for all the support you have given me over the past sixty-seven years—much appreciated.

*Jean Clarke*



Thanks for the cartoon, Sylvia! Ed.

# ***MONEWDEN NOTES***

## ***Church Rotas for December 2011***

| Date                         | Flowers & Brass | Cleaning             | Sidesperson                                      | Coffee    |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>DEC. 4th</b>              | K. Martin       | W. Heath             | <b>Benefice Holy Communion<br/>at CRETINGHAM</b> |           |
| 11th<br><b>Toy Service</b>   | M. Skeet        |                      | W. Heath                                         | J. Martin |
| 16th<br><b>Carol Service</b> |                 |                      | M. Skeet                                         | L. Grier  |
| 18th                         | W. HEATH        | M. Skeet<br>L. Grier | No Service<br>at Monewden                        |           |
| 25th                         | A.Hamilton      |                      | P. Keeble                                        | —         |

## ***Church Readers for December***

Dec. 4 Benefice Service; Dec. 11 Toy Service; Children;  
Dec. 18 Carol Service; Dec. 25 Aidan, David

---

## ***Church Rotas for January 2012***

| Date                | Flowers & Brass | Cleaning                | Sidesperson                                        | Coffee   |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>January 1st</b>  | L. Grier        | F. Watts<br>C. Saxby    | <b>Benefice Holy Communion<br/>at ASHFIELD</b>     |          |
| 8th                 | C. Saxby        |                         | W. Heath                                           | C. Saxby |
| 15th                | F. Watts        | K. Martin<br>J. Vonberg | L. Grier                                           | M. Skeet |
| 22nd                | S. Kingston     |                         | P. Keeble                                          | W. Heath |
| 29th                | J. Vonberg      | W. Heath                | No Service at Monewden                             |          |
| <b>February 5th</b> | J. Coe          |                         | <b>Benefice Holy Communion<br/>at LETHERINGHAM</b> |          |

***REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE*** at Monewden was held on Sunday, November 13, at 10.45 a.m., and was conducted by Ena Lowin with the assistance of a guest organist,

Stephanie Davies of Debach, who played very well. There was a good attendance which resulted in a collection of £137 which will be donated to the Royal British Legion. Our thanks to Chris Pratt of Earl Soham for providing a Book of Honour for our parish detailing the service histories of those local men who lost their lives in the two world wars.

**COFFEE MORNINGS:** The December Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 17th from 10 a.m. onwards, and the January event will be on Saturday 21st at the usual time. The 100 Club draw for the respective months will also take place at these events.

**LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY:** The December meeting, which attracted a very good turnout, was a most interesting talk by Chris Parfitt on Edmund, King and Martyr, a subject which of course has a great deal of local interest.

As is our usual practise at the Christmas meeting, which will be a talk on the history of Punch and Judy, if the gentlemen could bring a bottle of wine and the ladies, savouries, mince pies, etc. it would be appreciated. Our first meeting of 2012 will be held on Wednesday, January 11, when Richard Clark and Hilary Marlow will talk on Pettaugh Preserved.

**BENEFACTIVE TOY SERVICE** The joint Toy Service with Dallinghoo will be held on Sunday, 11th December at Monewden Church at 10 a.m. Please bring gift-wrapped presents for children, including teenagers, labelled suitably for sex and age ranges. As in previous years, gifts and the collection will be sent to the Ipswich Women's Refuge, where they are always gratefully received.

**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 fund raising events, whether donating gifts or draw prizes or contributing their valuable time.

**THE MONEWDEN CAROL SERVICE** this year will be held in the Church on Friday, 16th December, starting at 7 p.m. You are warmly invited to supper in the Village Hall after the service. If you wish to stay for supper, please contact Kathleen Martin on 01473 737 285.

**CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS:** Please could the usual helpers who decorate the church for Christmas do so before the Carol Service. Thank you.

**C.M.S. BOXES** Will anyone who still has a C.M.S. Box please return it to Margaret Skeet as soon as possible.

**PCC MEETING:** There will be a PCC meeting on Tuesday, January 31 at 7.30p.m., at Firs Farm.

## † R.I.P. KENNETH FREDERICK MARTIN

THE FUNERAL OF KEN MARTIN took place on Thursday October 10, at 2pm in St. Mary's Church, Monewden. It was conducted by Revd. Dr. Stephen Brian and was attended by around 140 people from a wide area. The family of Ken Martin would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who sent letters and cards of condolence, and to everyone who helped in any way at the funeral. They were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended and by the many kind words from so many people.

*Peter Keeble*

### **An appreciation of Ken's life by his son Brian:**

Dad's legacy to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren is, I think, the secret to a long and contented life. Dad was born in 1914, which was the start of the First World War, a time of horsepower and work done manually on the farms, a time of oil lamps and candles, a time of drinking water from the house pond, a very different life. Dad saw huge changes in his 97 years. He was born and brought up at Green Farm, Monewden. Sadly his mother died when he was six years old and it was a source of regret to dad that he was unable to remember her at all. Dad started his schooling at Monewden, he recalled sitting on his teacher's knee. Uncle Colin used to say that as a boy dad never wanted to play, he just wanted to work. Dad finished his schooling at Helmingham at 14 and began working on the farm.

After breaking his arm crank starting a tractor and having an accident with a Standard Fordson and trailed plough, dad's father decided he would be safer working with the livestock and horses, and I can just remember dad working with the horses as late as the early 50s. In truth dad was not at his best with anything mechanical.

At the onset of the Second World War dad became an active member of the Home Guard, and for several years after the war a Civil Defence volunteer. Life was not all work – dad loved to dance and cycled as far afield as Felixstowe for an evening's dancing. It was at a village dance at Stonham that dad and mum met. Dad's bike got to know the roads between Monewden and Redlingfield by itself – but not quite – grandma used to tell us about the night that dad fell asleep on the way home and ended up in a ditch!

Dad and mum married in 1945 and shared 66 years of happy marriage. They moved into Jope Cottage after marrying and as a wedding present mum's father gave them a cow and a pig, that was the beginning of their own business. At Jope Cottage mum and dad built up a smallholding with the cow, pigs and chickens. Dad was still working full time at the Green Farm. Helen and I were both born at Jope Cottage, Diane came along later after the move to Firs Farm. Thinking back to my childhood I cannot remember dad ever getting cross or even raising his voice to us, but when dad spoke we took notice – no argument. Dad worked hard and long hours, but was always there and would find time for us when we needed him. Dad never seemed to let anything get him down or worry him and would calmly work his way through any problem or crisis. He was an unshakeable rock to us all.

In 1955 dad and mum managed to buy the run down 40 acre Firs Farm, with dad leaving the Green Farm to work full time to clear, improve and expand their new business. Keeping pigs became the core of the business, as it still is today. I started work on the farm in 1967 and we worked together for twenty years until dad finally officially retired in 1987. In 1986 dad and mum moved out of the farmhouse into Fir Cones, that's dad's fourth home without moving out of Monewden! When they moved mum wanted to involve dad with bathroom, kitchens and décor in the bungalow, but dad was not an 'indoors' man – he would say 'all I need is a roof over my head, food on the table and a bed to sleep in'. Dad's life was on the farm and later in the garden. Dad never actually had much time for gardening until he retired, but became a prolific vegetable and fuchsia grower, many surplus vegetables found their way onto neighbours' doorsteps. He grew lots of fuchsias for the Monewden fuchsia festival. He loved that festival, when every year he met and chatted to lots of old friends and made new ones.

Dad loved to see his grandchildren and was always interested in what they were up to. Ali remembers harvest time and riding in grain trailers along with Jonathan and Christopher with granddad driving the tractor. Nick liked to help feed the pigs and working in the garden. Daniel recalls Colin and him hitting a cricket ball through the greenhouse window and being scared to tell their granddad, but he just shrugged it off with a comment I guess like, 'I reckon that'll mend.' Mark and Gary stayed at the bungalow with their granddad and grandma and loved the freedom of the farm.

Dad always wanted to know what was happening on the farm even to the last few weeks when his health was failing. Just a month or so ago I was asking him about some old field drainage plans dating back 50 years he remembered all about them and soon put me straight. It was very fortunate that dad was able to see so many of the people he loved in the last few weeks of his life, he had many people visit him at home, also he saw lots of friends at the harvest supper on October 7th. The family were together for Nick and David's civil ceremony celebration on the Saturday before Dad died. Dad said to me how much he wanted to be able to get to the ceremony saying 'the boy will be disappointed if I don't get there'. He did make it.

Now I return to the secret of a long and contented life – it is simply to pace yourself. I worked with dad for 20 years, although we worked to one end we rarely worked side by side on the same job. When I first started work dad's lack of urgency engendered a great sense of frustration in me when there was a lot to do. He started the day steadily so that by dinner time I would be well ahead of him but somehow he would catch up by teatime as I slowed down, he would still be ready to do another couple of hours after tea! He would do the same thing the next day, and the next day until the job was finished. Dad would not be hurried and always had time to stop at mealtimes and certainly would never skip a meal or be rushed. Even at harvest time mum would appear in the harvest field at teatime with tea, sandwiches and cakes and we would all stop to eat, sitting on bales of straw.

Learn to pace yourself and like dad you will be able to work well in the afternoon of life. We'll miss you dad.

*Brian Martin*

THE SNOW GEESE —  
a story for Christmas



There was a farmer who did not believe the Christmas story. The idea that God would become a man was absurd to him. He would scoff about it to his wife: ‘Why would God lower himself to become a human like us?’

It was near Christmas and the weather finally turned from unseasonably warm to very cold. One day while his wife was out, the weather deteriorated into a blinding storm. Then the farmer heard a loud thump against the side of the house. Then another thump! He ventured outside, and to his amazement he saw a flock of geese. They’d been migrating south but had become disorientated by the storm. They were stranded on his field, unable to fly further, and helpless.

The farmer had compassion on them and realised that his barn would give them shelter for the night. He opened the barn doors and stood back, but they did not understand. So he tried to shoo the geese in, but they ran in all directions. Perplexed, he got some bread, but still they would not follow him into the shelter of the barn.

Feeling totally frustrated, he shouted to them: “Why won’t you do what you are supposed to do? Why won’t you save yourselves?” But the geese ignored him. The farmer thought for a moment: how could he possibly get the geese to follow him into the barn? Then it dawned on him: “The only way would be for me to become a goose. If only I became like one of them then I could save them. I would lead them to safety.”

At that moment he stopped and realised what he had said. The words reverberated in his head. “If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them.” Then, at last, he understood God’s heart towards mankind. He understood why God had sent his Son. The farmer fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped him.

His new understanding of how salvation works gave the farmer an idea. He tied a string around the foot of one of his tame geese, and let it out of the barn for a few minutes. Then gradually, sprinkling lots of grain along the way, he pulled it back in again. The wild geese began to follow.

***From Parish Pump***

*And finally ...*

To all our Readers

To all our Contributors

To all our Distributors

To Caroline, our Advertisements Manager  
and to all our Advertisers -



FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2011  
FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

**THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU  
and A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year  
to you all  
from Ena and Patrick Lowin**



### **Mid Loes Benefice Magazine**

Our Magazine goes to over 860 households  
and our readers are pleased to be able  
to support local businesses.

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Mrs. Caroline Saxby

Tel: 01473 277146

E-mail: [saxbies@hotmail.com](mailto:saxbies@hotmail.com)

Thank you

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
COLOURFUL NEW YEAR

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No Job Too Small

Bookings Now Being Taken For 2012

**Call Kevin on 07814 680982**

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**I would like to thank you and all at KDS for the excellent and  
friendly service you have given me with our magazines through  
what has been a difficult year for us. I'm glad to say my husband  
and I have both recovered and look forward to a less eventful 2012!**



**Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas  
and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year**

**Ena**

| <b>USEFUL CONTACTS</b>                                    |                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Clerks to Parish Councils</b>                          |                                                                                                |
| <b>Ashfield</b>                                           | Helen Noble<br>E mail: helennoble@googlemail.com<br>Tel: 01473 412 195                         |
| <b>Charsfield</b>                                         | Bob Osborne<br>E mail: bobosborne@btinternet.com<br>Tel: 01473 623 655                         |
| <b>Cretingham</b>                                         | Carol Smy<br>E mail: Clerkcsmh@thesmys.com<br>Tel: 01379 384 679                               |
| <b>Dallinghoo</b>                                         | David Blyth<br>E mail:<br>Tel: 01473 737 424                                                   |
| <b>Earl Soham</b>                                         | Jane Page<br>E mail: janepage@mypostoffice.co.uk<br>Tel: 01728 746 012                         |
| <b>Hoo</b>                                                | Carol Smy (see Cretingham above)                                                               |
| <b>Letheringham</b>                                       | Terence Carlin<br>Tel: 01728 746 480                                                           |
| <b>Monewden</b>                                           | Carol Smy (see Cretingham above)                                                               |
|                                                           | ff                                                                                             |
| <b>Village Hall/Community Centre Booking Secretaries:</b> |                                                                                                |
| <b>Ashfield</b>                                           | Malcolm and Sue Pease<br>E mail malcolmpease@btinternet.com<br>Tel: 01728 685 452              |
| <b>Charsfield</b>                                         | Website: www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk<br>Or Tel: 07788 957                                 |
| <b>Dallinghoo</b>                                         | Mr Chris Pennington<br>Tel: 01473 737 836                                                      |
| <b>Earl Soham</b>                                         | Website: www.onesuffolk.co.uk/earlsohamvillagehall<br>Or Tel: Mrs. Celia Peacher—01728 685 047 |
| <b>Monewden</b>                                           | Mr. Mike Crisp<br>Tel: 01473 737 393                                                           |

| <b>Village Organisations</b> |                                 |                                          |                                |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ASHFIELD</b>              | Community Council               | Mrs. Barbara Wilton                      | 01728 685 933                  |
| "                            | Ladies Group                    | Mrs. Susan Hansen                        | 01728 685 738                  |
| <b>CHARSFIELD</b>            | CEVC Primary School             | Mrs. Val Jones                           | 01473 737 347                  |
| "                            | WI Secretary                    | Mrs. Mandy Pryke                         | 01728 748 039                  |
| "                            | Rec. Ground Com                 | Mrs. Jan Pedgrift                        | 01473 737 701                  |
| "                            | Tennis Club                     | Mrs. Pauline Llewellyn                   | 01473 737 517                  |
| "                            | Flower Show Secretary           | Ms Diana Alexander                       | 01473 277190                   |
| <b>CRETINGHAM</b>            | 100 Club                        | Mr. Alister Gourlay                      | 01728 685 335                  |
| <b>DALLINGHOO</b>            | 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                  |
| <b>EARL SOHAM</b>            | FO St. Mary's                   | Mr. John Stott                           | 01728 860 997                  |
| "                            | Primary School                  | Mr. Karl Pearce                          | 01728 685 359                  |
| "                            | Neighbourhood Watch             | Mrs. J. Sheffield<br>Mrs. Mary Patterson | 01728 685 403<br>01728 685 362 |
| "                            | WI Secretary                    | Mrs. Eleri Whitham                       | 01728 628 614                  |
| "                            | Village Hall Com.               | Mrs. J. Ravenscroft                      | 01728 685 346                  |
| "                            | 100 Club                        | Mr. R. Tinkler                           | 01728 685 278                  |
| "                            | Tennis Club                     | Mrs. Mary Patterson                      | 01728 685 362                  |
| "                            | Bowls Club                      | Mrs. Pam Sykes                           | 01728 685 519                  |
| "                            | Scouts/Cubs/Beavers             | Mrs. J. Lovett                           | 01728 723 712                  |
| "                            | Fram Twinning Assoc'n.          | Mrs. Jan Whitfield                       | 01728 685 139                  |
| "                            | Carpet Bowls Club               | Mrs. K. Arndt-Snelling                   | 01728 685 957                  |
| "                            | Allotment/Gardeners Association | Mrs. Mavis Kerridge<br>Mr. Nick Ashwell  | 01728 685 700<br>01728 684 883 |
| <b>MONEWDEN</b>              | Local History Society           | Mr. Peter Driver                         | 01728 724 951                  |



## CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25<sup>th</sup> December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

## CHRISTMAS EVE

24<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its ....leaves?



**What goes red, white, red, white, red, white?**

Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and his wife hang over their baby's cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.



*Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event 4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest 7 evergreen*