

## **MID LOES BENEFICE**

**Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach  
Cretingham, Dallinghoo, Earl Soham,  
Hoo, Letheringham and Monewden**

**December 2017/January 2018**

Dear friends

I wonder how well you know the Christmas story. It may surprise you to learn that there are not one, but two nativity stories in the bible. One appears near the beginning of Matthew's gospel and the other in Luke. The two tend to get conflated to produce the Christ-mas plays that we all remember from our school days. In Mark and John's gospels there are no stories of Jesus's birth - he simply ap-pears as a full-grown adult from the start.

Luke's story tends to be our preferred option. It contains the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary, the trek to Bethlehem, the kindly innkeeper who squeezes them in, and the angels appearing to the shepherds. Matthew's account is a darker affair, with the mysterious magi who come from unknown lands ('the east') and, their strange mission accomplished, return whence they came. It also has an angry Herod, deception, and the slaughter of the innocents.

As with so much of the bible, we need to concern ourselves not so much with the precise details as with the message the author is trying to convey. The writers of both nativity stories are trying to tell us, the readers, that here was a truly remarkable person - the long-awaited messiah who has come from God to show us the true nature of God's kingdom. John's Gospel goes even further in that magnificent prologue in the first few verses, proclaiming that "The Word was with God and the Word was God" and that he brings us life and light.

Our instinct in putting all these different stories together is a good one, because in doing so it becomes evident that here is something and someone who needs to be taken very seriously.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Stephen

### **BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY**

We meet on Tuesday 19th December 2017 and Tuesday 16th January 2018, 7:30pm at Monewden Village Hall. All welcome and no prior knowledge needed.

*SB*

## **Mid-Loes Benefice holiday Club**

We are again making plans to hold our Holiday Club at Chars-field School for three mornings in August 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning your holidays we hope that you will be able to join with us for those three days and have lots of fun with craft, sport and cooking and learning together. All Primary School children are welcome.

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions to the magazine over the past year and for all the support you have shown me, thank you.

If there is anything you would like to see included in the new year please let me know.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2018 be filled with good health and happiness.

*Ali (Editor)*

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017**

### **TOY SERVICE**

Monewden 10th December 10 am

### **CAROL SERVICES**

Monewden 15th December at 7 pm  
Ashfield 17th December at 4 pm  
Earl Soham 17th December at 6.30 pm  
Cretingham 22nd December at 7pm  
Charsfield 24th December at 6.30 pm  
Letheringham 24th December at 4 pm  
Dallinghoo 24th December at 3.30 pm  
Hoo 24th December at 3 pm

### **CRIB SERVICE**

Earl Soham 24th 6.30 pm

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Earl Soham 24th 11.30pm  
Cretingham 24th 11.30pm  
Charsfield 25th 10 am  
Earl Soham 25th 8 am  
Dallinghoo 25th 10 am  
Monewden 25th 10 am By Ext

### **FAMILY SERVICES**

Cretingham 25th 10 am

Earl Soham 25th 10 am

**COMPLINE**

Cretingham 31st 11.45 pm

***CRETINGHAM NOTES***

**Flower and Cleaning Rota**

Month	Altar Flowers	Cleaning
December	Mrs Coe	Runacres Family
January 2018	See New Rota	See New Rota

Our REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE was held with the sun shining down on the War Memorial in our Churchyard. We gathered round to hear the names of those who gave their lives read by Michael Pinner from the Memorial who then laid a wreath of poppies. It was also an honour this year to have parishioners join us from Letheringham who read the names of those who gave their lives from their parish. A sincere thank you to Derek Alway who led the service in a dignified and respectful way ensuring that 'We shall remember them'. Also thank you to his son Mark who played The Last Post and Reveille - sending out a message to the whole village. A cheque has been sent to the Royal British Legion for £100 from the collection.

**Christmas in Cretingham**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December: **CHRISTMAS STALL** in Church  
**10am - 12 noon.** See all the fabulous

Christmas flowers filling every window, hot refreshments to warm you up, homemade cake stall, chance

to purchase that last Christmas gift plus Christmas raffle. Also a great time to catch up with friends and acquaintanc-es. Not to be missed and don't be late as only open for 2 hours.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December:

**CAROL SINGING IN THE VILLAGE PUB.** After the success last year we are again gathering in The Creting-ham Bell (by kind invitation of Paul and Clare) to sing our hearts out, partake of some liquid refreshment to raise mon-ey for a local children's charity. All gather please in fine voice at 7 pm.

Friday Evening 22<sup>nd</sup> December:

**CAROL SERVICE** in Church 7 pm. Selection of readings and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies in our beautiful village church.

Do please join us.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December: **CHRISTMAS DAY Family Service** in St. Peters Church at 10 am. A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come and gather on this very special day in our village church. (Maximum 40 minute service).

New Years Eve - 31<sup>st</sup> December: **A service of COMPLINE** A time for contemplation and see in 2018. 11.45 pm start in St. Peters Church.

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Huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped out during 2017 from flowers, grass cutting, cleaning, fund raising, read-ing, bell ringing, supporting events and ultimately ensuring that our beautiful church is here for everyone now and in the future. Thank you again.

*Heather & Alister*

(Churchwardens)

St. Peters Church Dates for Dec 2017 /Jan 2018

17<sup>th</sup> Dec Morning Prayer 10 am

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec Carol Service 7 pm

24<sup>th</sup> Dec Holy Communion 11.30 pm

25<sup>th</sup> Dec Family Service 10 am

31<sup>st</sup> Dec Holy Communion 10 am

31<sup>st</sup> Dec Compline 11.45 pm

21<sup>st</sup> Jan Morning Prayer 10 am

28<sup>th</sup> Jan Evening Prayer with Holy Communion 4 pm

**Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and hope you are able to join us for some of the events in your Village Church of St. Peters this festive season.**

**Pamela and Michael Pinner**

**Wish to thank all our good friends and neighbours**

for their support and help during the year and to  
 Wish you all a  
 Very Happy Christmas  
 and Good Health throughout 2018

**Angel Tree - Bringing the gift of joy to prisoners' families at Christmas**

For someone in prison, Christmas is the most difficult of seasons. Families often struggle financially and their children have very little.

*Angel Tree* is a programme run by Prison Fellowship England and Wales. Volunteers buy, wrap and send gifts on prisoners' behalf with a personal message written by the prisoner to make the gift extra special. Gifts are accompanied by a Christian story-book appropriate to the child's age. By providing gifts to the children of prisoners, *Angel Tree* lessens the devastation experienced as a result of parental absence by not only helping families to connect and build relationships, but by providing children with much-needed joy.

When Prison Fellowship England and Wales launched its first *Angel Tree* programme in one prison in 1994, it delivered 60 presents. Last Christmas, the *Angel Tree* programme ran in 82 prisons, enabling 2,550 prisoners to send a gift to their children. Nearly 5,000 presents were sent out to children!

One parent wrote afterwards, "Thank you very much for helping me protect the delicate bond between my children and their dad. They need each other very much and it was magical for them to receive a Christmas present."

One parent in prison said, 'I had three children that received gifts. They were extremely excited at receiving a gift and it made a fantastic surprise as they never thought their Dad could get them a gift this year. So, thank you with all my heart.' Prison Fellowship is always seeking individuals and churches to help with fundraising, buying presents and wrapping gifts. If this is something you would like to be involved in, contact Prison Fellowship.

[www.prisonfellowship.org.uk](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk)

Parish Pump

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**CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES**

*Church Rotas*

Date	Readers	Sides person
<b>DEC 3rd</b> <b>10am</b>	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AT DALLINGHOO, 10 AM. ALL WELCOME.</b>	
Evening Prayer 6.30pm	17th Roger Pauline	Pauline
Carol Service with Chapel 6.30pm ALL WELCOME	24th TBA	TBA
Holy Communion 10am	25th Margaret Michael	Michael
Morning Prayer 10am	31st Antony Stephanie	Stephanie
<b>JAN 7th</b> <b>10am</b>	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AT MONEWDEN, 10AM. ALL WELCOME</b>	

Evening Prayer 6.30pm	21st	Margaret Ros	Ros
Holy Communion 10am	28th	Sheila Pam	Pam

*Cleaning Rota for December/January*

Dec 3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
No Cleaning	Sheila G Pauline L	Stephanie D Margaret S	Fran M Lucy F	Gill W Bev G

*Flower Rota for December/January*

Dec 3rd & 10th	17th	24th & 31st	Jan 7th & 14th	21st & 28th
Bev G	Joyce W	Everyone	Lucy F	Pauline L

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### Charsfield Recreation Ground

We have set our dates for fund raising events for next year so please put them in your diary and come and keep the recreation ground up and running:

Spring Quiz: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Charsfest Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Golf Day at Seckford Golf Club Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Autumn Quiz: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September

The Big Breakfast: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Further details from Jan Pedgrift. 01473  
737701 [Janpedgrift@btinternet.com](mailto:Janpedgrift@btinternet.com)

## Our Coffee pot @ Charsfield

**What:** VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING  
Coffee (& Tea), Cookies,  
Cake 'n' Chat @ Charsfield

**When:** Tuesdays between 10-12

**Where:** @ Baptist Chapel Hall, The Street, Charsfield

**Who:** All are welcome to drop in and encourage one another along life's way.... whether you're local or passing through....



We hope you can join us. We look forward to meeting you on Tuesdays.

**\*\*\*CHARSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH NOTICES\*\*\***

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**THANK YOU!**

**Charity Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale**

A big thank you to all who donated & came along to support. There were 80+ visitors to the Hall between 9AM & 2PM...It was great to see you all!

Through your kindness and generosity a grand total of **£522:51** was raised and divided between **E.A.C.H. & Charsfield Primary School**. E.A.C.H. collected the remaining items to sell in the stores.

May God Bless you, Bruce

**YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US AT THE FOLLOWING:**

**CANDLE LIGHT CAROL SERVICE**

Sunday, December 17th  
6PM – 7PM in The Chapel  
...mincepies & hot Chocolate to follow...

**CAROLS AROUND THE TREE**

Thursday, December 21st  
6:30PM onwards @ The Chapel Hall  
with family fun, games & light refreshments

**CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED COURSES \*\*New courses**

starting January 2018\*\*  
Expoloring the basics of the Christian faith over seven weeks – join us at the Chapel Hall or a local house-group.

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

Sundays @ 3PM @ The Chapel Hall commencing January 14th 2018  
for 10-14 year olds

For further details on any of the above  
please contact Bruce Francis by phone on 01473 277 182 or by  
email at [bruceinphp@yahoo.com](mailto:bruceinphp@yahoo.com)  
or visit the church website [www.charsfieldchapel.org.uk](http://www.charsfieldchapel.org.uk)

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**Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year Everyone!**

May the true meaning of Christmas fill your lives with joy and peace...  
May the Lord shine His face upon you & your loved ones throughout 2018.

With all best wishes,  
Charsfield Baptist Church

## CADS 2018 Production

CADS has a new show for 2018. It's a tale of espionage, treachery, love and.....sausages. It is 1940. Norfolk and Suffolk are at war.

Deep in the Suffolk countryside sits Sketchley Park, country house turned top secret research station. Here Chef Alan Tureen is developing and refining sausage recipes as a way to pass messages to the front. Can Norfolk's Ace of Spies infiltrate the station, crack the codes and turn the tide in the war? Come along in March to find out.

'CADS Army and the Battle of the Bangers' by Jeremy Gugenheim will be staged on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>**, **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at **7:30 p.m.** in **Charsfield Village Hall**.

Tickets will be on sale from January 1<sup>st</sup> from:

**The Three Horse Shoes** (Tel: 01473 737 187) in Charsfield

**R & S Hardware** (Tel: 01728 747 394) in Wickham Market.

### **EARL SOHAM NOTES**

Rota for the Altar and Roll of Honour Flowers and Brasses-St. Mary's		
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Mrs Crimp	
<b>JANUARY</b>	Mrs Edmundson	Mrs Tinkler
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Mrs Tinkler	
Any problems phone Lyn—685278		

A big THANK YOU to everyone who does flowers and brasses etc throughout the year, it really makes our lovely church look loved and looked after, any extra help would be gratefully received.

*Lyn Tinkler*

### **DATES FOR CHRISTMAS**

The Christmas Crib service will again be held on 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm and we will be looking for children to take part in this at the beginning of December. Please let us know if you would like to be involved and to make this Christmas Eve very special  
Mary Vellacott 01728 685423

[maryvellacott@btinternet.com](mailto:maryvellacott@btinternet.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:

**Stephen Brian - 01728 685 308**

**Kathleen Martin - 01473 737 285**

**Pauline Cobley - 01473 737 317**

**Kath Bamford - 01473 737 414**

**Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence**



# **EARL SOHAM WALKERS**

This is intended to be sociable, good exercise, inclusive and fun.

Starting from **Earl Soham Village Hall** car park

**Saturday 16th December at 2pm.**

All ages and abilities welcome.

Comfortable footwear, waterproof top if wet

Do please give us a try.

Contact: Mark Sargeantson Tel. 01728 684388 Email.  
mjs@fennwright.co.uk

“To residents of Earl Soham parish

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to attend the Neighbourhood Plan drop-in meeting at the Village Hall on the 12th and for leaving your comments. We had over 50 residents attend including committee members and received in excess of 230 comments. The comments touched on issues such as

Traffic safety  
Wildlife conservation  
Parkland/play area  
Housing  
Transport  
Mobile coverage  
Broadband bandwidth and reliability

The Neighbourhood Plan committee will be incorporating the issues that are important to you in a questionnaire that we will generate in the near future along with further consultation.

If you have any further thoughts or comments please contact us by email  
earlsohamnp@gmail.com

Kind Regards

The Earl Soham Neighbourhood Plan committee.“

## **ST MARYS EARL SOHAM**

### **BURNS NIGHT SUPPER**

*Saturday 3rd February 2018*

7 for 7.30 pm

Earl Soham Village Hall

*Traditional 3 course haggis supper Piped in by our own 'Highlander' and followed by  
Scottish dancing*

£10 PER PERSON - beer/ wine/ soft drinks available  
(children under 12 years £6)

**Book your tickets by January 27<sup>th</sup>**

RING Mavis 01728 685700 or Irene 01728 685814

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

**EARL SOHAM FILM CLUB SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**DECEMBER 7-7.30 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**A REMAKE OF THE ORIGINAL 1947**  
**CLASSIC**

**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 7-7.30 IN THE**  
**VILLAGE HALL**

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

**A REMAKE OF THE DISNEY CLASSIC**

**From our MP – Dr Dan Poulter**

One of my favourite parts of the week is when I return home to Suffolk after a demanding schedule in Westminster. There is always plenty to do in Suffolk throughout the year, but especially so during the build up to Christmas. The dedication and commitment of our local community volunteers is to be absolutely commended.

When visiting the fayres and markets I very much enjoy taking time to browse the many stalls and always make an effort to buy locally. We have such a fantastic range of small and

independent retailers, not to mention farm shops and local producers and it's very important that we do our best to support our local economy. Time for Christmas shopping is always difficult for me, spending my time in Parliament midweek and then often working over the weekend, so I'll certainly be taking the opportunity to stock up on some gifts and presents.

I always look forward to Christmas at home in Suffolk, spending time with friends and family and making time to relax and enjoy a break away from everyday business. Spending time together away from the daily pressures of work is so important for us all, but we should also remember those who may be spending Christmas without their loved ones, perhaps an elderly neighbour or those who are remembering family who are no longer here. We have a great sense of community spirit here in Suffolk and many churches and community organisations have boxes set aside to collect donations of food for those less fortunate than ourselves, so perhaps help to spread some Christmas cheer to others and donate even a small contribution. A little goes a long way in making someone feel that they're not alone.

As winter is now upon us, the chance of severe weather also becomes more likely. Whilst our gas and electricity network companies work to ensure that the networks are as robust as possible, storms, floods and other extreme weather can still cause damage and disruption. Living in a rural county like Suffolk, it's important that our communities are well prepared, just in case of power cuts or gas emergencies. To be Winter Ready:

Know your free emergency numbers – in a power cut, dial 105 and for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999

Be prepared – keep a torch handy and keep your appliances serviced regularly to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register – contact your network for further information. Visit [www.energynetworks.org](http://www.energynetworks.org) to find out your network operator.

Keep an eye on the weather forecast and if you have a power cut or gas emergency, please check on neighbours too.

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

## ***HOO NOTES***

### ***WELCOME***

Dave and Lynne Finch have moved into Hoo Wood Cottages. We welcome them to Hoo and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

### ***CAROL SERVICE***

Our carol service is once again on Christmas Eve this year at 3pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

### ***THANK YOU***

Perry and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year. We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us throughout this year.

God Bless You All  
Margaret Doe

## **A LESSON LEARNED.....TOO LATE**

A 70-year-old couple have always been in great health because of the wife's insistence on healthy food, exercise and clean living. One day, both are killed in a horrific car crash. At the pearly gates, St Peter welcomes them and introduces them to their new life in Heaven.

He shows them to a fabulous mansion. "But how much will this cost?" asks the man. "It's nothing," replies Peter. "It's free. This is Heaven."

Then he takes them to the back of the mansion and shows them the wonderful golf course. "But how much does it cost to join?" asks the man. "It's nothing", replies St Peter. "It's free. This is Heaven."

Finally, he takes them through to the restaurant attached to the golf course and shows them the menu, full of the richest, most delicious dishes, many with heavy cream sauces. "But we only eat low-fat, low-salt, non-dairy, low-cholesterol, organic food", says the man. "Don't worry," says St Peter. "This is Heaven, there are no calories in Heaven. You can eat all you want and remain trim and healthy". At that, the man screams and turns to his wife. "You stupid woman" he shrieks at her. "If you hadn't insisted on us eating all that boring health food and taking exercise, we could have been here years ago!"

*(Thank you Margaret, for keeping us all smiling throughout the year—Ed)*

### **A CHRISTMAS RECIPE: PEAR, CHOCOLATE & MARZIPAN STRUDEL**

( I have not tried this one yet, but I plan to over Christmas!)

Serves 6

85g Butter, melted, plus a little extra

5 Pears, peeled, cored and chopped

4 tbsp light muscovado sugar, plus extra for sprinkling

1 tbsp Disaronno (optional)

100g Ginger biscuits, crushed

1 tsp Ground cinnamon

100g Dark chocolate, broken into chunks

100g Marzipan, chopped into small pieces

250g pack filo (at least 6 sheets)

Icing sugar and cream to serve

Melt a knob of butter in a large frying pan, add the pears and 1 tbsp sugar, and cook for 5 mins. Tip into a bowl and leave to cool. Once cool, add the Disaronno (if using), biscuits cinnamon, chocolate, marzipan, and 2 tbsp sugar and mix well.

Line a tray with baking parchment. Lay a sheet of filo on it, brush with melted butter and sprinkle with a little sugar. Top with a second sheet of filo and keep going until you have used all the pastry. Pile the filling down one of the long sides of the pastry, then roll it up to form a sausage. Make sure it is seam side down, then tuck the ends under tightly. Roll up in the parchment, wrap tightly in foil and freeze.

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Put a tray in the oven to heat. Un-wrap the strudel and place, seam-side down and still on the parchment, onto the tray. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle over 1 tbsp sugar.

Bake for 35-40mins, then dust with icing sugar. (can be made and frozen up to three months in advance.)

## ***ASHFIELD NOTES***

### **ASHFIELD CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

There will be a Social Evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th December from 7.30pm. Please bring a plate of food to share, the bar will be open.

MP

### **CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S**

The Carol Service will take place on 17th December at 4pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. We look forward to seeing you.

### **ANOTHER YEAR COMES TO AN END**

As 2017 draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the running of the Church in Ashfield during the year. Whether it be cleaning the church building, cutting the grass and hedges, delivering our magazines or making a regular financial contribution. We wouldn't keep the place up and running without you. THANK YOU.

RG.

### **ASHFIELD FOOTPATH NETWORK.**

Ashfield boasts one of the best maintained footpath networks any-where in Suffolk [according to SCC]. Ashfield Footpath Group was formed some years ago when the network was not in a particularly good state with the aim to rectify this, it was achieved and now we strive to keep this up. Once every year the entire path network is walked, signposts and bridges are inspected to ensure they are in good order and where necessary repairs or replacements are made. The annual audit has recently been completed and I am pleased to report that no route is totally impassable. In a few places work is required and will be undertaken to clarify/improve the surface of the routes concerned working in conjunction with the landowner if appropriate. A few signposts and waymarks have reached the end of their useful life and will be replaced.

We understand that the river crossings along Cretingham Lane that have been closed for sometime should be replaced during the cur-rent financial year which will reopen access to routes into Framsdon, Cretingham and beyond!

We know many of you already use the paths and encourage more people to go out and explore what is on your doorstep. Should you encounter any problems whilst out do please let Malcolm

Pease [malcolmpease@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmpease@btinternet.com) or myself know so that we can get things put right for you.

Robert Grimsey  
Chairman AFG

**SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2017**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Dec 3 Advent 1 <i>Purple</i></b>	<b>Dec 10 Advent 2 <i>Purple</i></b>	<b>Dec 17 Advent 3 <i>Purple</i></b>	<b>Dec 24 Christmas Eve <i>Purple</i></b>	<b>Dec 31 Christmas 1</b>
<b>Ashfield-cum-Thorpe</b>	↓	6.30pm Evening Prayer	4 pm Carol Service	—	—
<b>Chars-field w. Debach</b>	↓	—	6.30pm Evening Prayer	6.30pm Carol Service	10am Morning Prayer
<b>Creting-ham</b>	↓	—	10am Morning Prayer  Friday 22nd 7pm Carol Service	11.30pm Holy Communion	10am Holy Communion 11.45pm Compline
<b>Dalling-hoo</b>	10am Benefice Holy Communion	3.30pm Evening prayer & Holy Communion	10am Family Service	3.30pm Carol Service	—
<b>Earl So-ham</b>	↑	10am Morning Prayer	10am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carol Service	8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Holy Communion	—
<b>Hoo</b>	↑	8.30am Holy Communion	—	3pm Carol Service	—
<b>Lether-ingham</b>	↑	10am Morning Prayer	8.30am Holy Communion	4pm Carol Service	—
<b>Monewd-en</b>	↑	10am Toy Service  Friday 7pm	15th Carol Service	—	6.30pm Evening Prayer

**A complete list of all Christmastide Services  
can be found on page 3**

**SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2018**

<b>Church</b>	Jan 7 Epiphany 1 <i>White</i>	Jan 14 <b>Epiphany 2</b> <i>White</i>	Jan. 21 Epiphany 3 <i>White</i>	Jan 28 Epiphany 4 <i>White</i>
<b>Ashfield-cum-Thorpe</b>	↓	6.30pm Evening Prayer	6.30pm Holy Communion	—
<b>Charsfield w. Debach</b>	↓	—	6.30pm Evening Prayer	10am Holy Communion
<b>Cretingham</b>	↓	—	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Evening Prayer Holy
<b>Dallinghoo</b>	↓	3.30pm Evening Prayer Holy Communion	10am Family Service	—
<b>Earl Soham</b>	↓	10am Morning Prayer	10 am Holy Communion	8 am Holy Communion 10am Family Service
<b>Hoo</b>	↓	8.30am Holy Communion	—	8.30 am Morning Prayer
<b>Letheringham</b>	↓	10am Morning Prayer	8.30am Holy Communion	—
<b>Monewden</b>	10am Benefice Holy Communion	10am Holy Communion	—	10am Family Service

**THE BENEFICE SERVICE ON SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, at 10am will be hosted by ASHFIELD, ALL WELCOME!**

**READINGS FOR SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2017  
& JANUARY 2018**

	Holy Communion	MP or EP	Psalm
Dec 3	1 Corinthians Ch 1 vs 3-9 Mark Ch 13 vs 24-end		
Dec 10	2 Peter Ch 3 vs 8-15a Mark Ch 1 vs 1-8	Isaiah Ch 40 vs 1-11 Mark Ch 1 vs 1-8	Psalm 85 vs 8-end
Dec 17	1 Thessalonians Ch 5 vs 16-24 John Ch 1 vs 6-8, 19-28	Isaiah Ch 61 vs 1-4, 8- end John Ch 1 vs 6-8, 19-28	Psalm 126
Dec 24	Romans Ch 16 vs 25-end Luke Ch 1 vs 26-38	2 Samuel Ch 7 vs 1-11, 16 Luke Ch 1 vs 26-38	Psalm 89 vs 1-8
Dec 25	Titus Ch 2 vs 11- 14 or Titus Ch 3 vs 4-7 or Hebrews Ch 1 vs 1-12 Luke Ch 2 vs 1-20 or John Ch 1 vs 1-14		
Dec 31	Galatians Ch 4 vs 4-7 Luke Ch 2 vs 15-21	Isaiah Ch 61 v 10 - Ch 62 v 3 Luke Ch 2 vs 15-21	Psalm 148 vs 7- end
Jan 7	Isaiah Ch 60 vs 1-6 Matthew Ch 2 vs 1-12		
Jan 14	Revelation Ch 5 vs 1-10 John Ch 1 vs 43-end	1 Samuel Ch 3 vs 1-20 John Ch 1 vs 43-end	Psalm 139 vs 1- 9
Jan 21	Revelation Ch 19 vs 6-10 John Ch 2 vs 1-11	Genesis Ch 14 vs 17-20 John Ch 2 vs 1-11	Psalm 128
Jan 28	Revelation Ch 12 vs 1-5a Mark Ch 1 vs 21-28	Deuteronomy Ch 18 vs 15-20 Mark Ch 1 vs 21-28	Psalm 111
Feb 4	Colossians Ch 1 vs 15-20 John Ch 1 vs 1-14		



## With Gladness and Glue

While Christmas shopping in a Jewellery store, I discovered a clearance table of gilded ornaments. Detailed and delicate in design, each had a personality all of its own. I sorted among the hundreds of filigreed masterpieces, picked out a few and took them home. Deciding they were much too pretty to disappear among the clutter of a Christmas tree, I used them instead to decorate small eight-inch wreaths. When I stood back to admire my handiwork, a thought crossed my mind:

Wouldn't some of our family and friends like these, too?

I raced back to the jewellery store to discover that the stack of ornaments had been reduced further. This time I bought dozens as I thought of the many people who might enjoy one for the holidays. Armed with a glue gun and bright ribbons of every colour, I eagerly began my creative project. The wreaths multiplied like measles and dotted every flat surface in our house. For days, my family tiptoed around, elbowed their way through and slept among the miniature masterpieces.

While I tied dainty bows and glued golden ornaments, my mind wandered to Christmases past, and I pondered how special each had been. I thought about others not so fortunate. Some people in our community didn't have a family to share the joy of Christ-mas. Some didn't bother with decorations. Some never left their homes to celebrate the season.

I nodded my head in determined satisfaction. They would be at the top of my list to receive a little wreath. My husband joined me in the plan, and we set out together to put it into action. We visited the aged. We visited the widowed. We visited the lonely. Each one was thrilled with our cheery stops and immediately hung our small gifts - often the only signs of celebration in their homes.

After several days, I realised we had given almost two hundred wreaths. Decorated with love and delivered with delight, they filled many homes and hearts with the joy of Christmas.

And I came to the simple realisation that we were actually the ones who received the greatest blessing that year. We had found our Christmas spirit in the doing.

*Nancy B Gibbs*

*Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury*

## **DALLINGHOO NOTES**

### ***Church Rotas***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service/Readers</b>	<b>Sides people</b>
<b>Dec 3rd</b> 10am	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION 10AM AT DALLINGHOO, ALL WELCOME.</b>	
10am	<b>TOY SERVICE AT MONEWDEN ALL WELCOME</b>	
3.30pm	<b>Carol Service</b> TBC	All PCC Please
10am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Mr P Taylor Mrs C Sullivan	Mrs S Arbon Mr C Pennington
<b>Jan 14th</b> 3.30pm	<b>Evening Prayer &amp; Holy Communion</b>	
10am	<b>Family Service</b>	

### ***Flower and Cleaning Rota for December/January***

Not available at time of printing

***Church Opening/Closing Rota for December/January*** No dates available at time of printing Chris Pennington will open and close the church every Sunday

### ***HARVEST SUPPER***

The harvest supper was a popular evening, hot meal and lovely desserts. Well supported with a good raffle, a profit of £473 for church funds was raised.

### ***THANK YOU***

Betty and Prim would like to thank Charlotte for organising the harvest supper. Also thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a successful evening. Everyone enjoyed a lovely meal of Shepherd's Pie and vegetables, also, wonderful puddings. Thank you all.

*Betty and Prim*

### ***REMEMBRANCE***

The remembrance and holy communion service were held on a bright, cold morning and taken by Rev Stephen Brian. Peter Taylor and Sheila West read the lessons. At the war memorial Peter Taylor read the names of the fallen. Jeremy Quinlan laid the wreath.

***REST IN PEACE***

The village is saddened to have lost two long term residents. Hilda Pearson who had moved to Saxmundham after 50yrs in the village and David Gay who had played a big part in village life. We send our sympathy to their families.

**Death:** Sadly, David Gay died 29th October; he will be much missed.

**Birth:** To Valerian Spicer a son, Hamish, born 6th November.

**Welcome:** We welcome the new family in Cambridge Cottage, Watery Lane: Richard & Amanda Daugty and their daughter Belle.

**THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the cards and letters and offers of help that I have received since my husband, David, passed away. It is such a comfort to know that people are thinking of me and my family.

Rosalind Gay

***DALLINGHOO CAROL SERVICE WILL BE ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 3.30 p.m.***

***If you would like to participate, by singing in a small choir, playing a musical instrument or reading one of the lessons, please contact:***

***For singing:*** [megan.peel.voice@btinternet.com](mailto:megan.peel.voice@btinternet.com)

***For playing:*** [helen.tye@gmail.com](mailto:helen.tye@gmail.com)

***For either of the above or for reading a lesson:***

[annybrown@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annybrown@hotmail.co.uk) (apologies for the misprinted email address last month!)

***You can also contact Sue Arbon on 01473 737431 if you would like to read a lesson.***

***All ages and abilities welcome!***

**CAROL SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S**

**SUNDAY 24TH AT 3.30PM**

**CAROLS READINGS AND MUSIC**

**FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS**

**EVERYONE VERY WELCOME**

### ***CHRISTMAS DAY***

A service of Holy Communion will be held on Christmas morning at 10am.  
Everyone welcome.

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

Carpet Bowls sessions will be on Wednesday 6th and 20th  
December and 3rd, 17th and 31st January 2018.

Held in Dallinghoo Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm. Gentle exercise, good fun and no  
previous experience necessary. Contact Cliff Green 01473 737421 email:  
cliffval@btinternet.com.

### **One Last Sleep**

Time for bed! Time for sleep!  
Go on your sleepy way; Snuggled down and sleeping deep –  
Tomorrow's Christmas Day!

He will come! While you rest! Santa with his sleigh!  
Climbing down the chimney breast With gifts for  
Christmas Day!

You've been good! Just sleep well!  
Hear what your parents say!  
Underneath that sleepy spell  
Along comes Christmas Day!

The best time of the year!  
When we can laugh and play!  
One day full of festive cheer  
We all love Christmas Day!

*By Nigel Beeton  
Parish Pump*

## ***MONEWDEN NOTES***

### ***Church Rotas***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flowers &amp; Brasses</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Sides person</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>Dec 3rd</b>	A Hamilton	F Watts C Saxby	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION , 10AM, AT DAL-LINGHOO ALL WELCOME</b>	
<b>10th</b>	L Grier		D Grier	L Grier
<b>Friday 15th</b>	C Saxby	K Martin J Vonberg	P Keeble	Supper in village hall.
<b>25th</b>	K Martin		L Grier	M Skeet
<b>31st</b>	F Watts	W Heath		
<b>Jan 7th</b>	S Kingston	<b>BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION , 10AM, AT MONEWDEN ALL WELCOME</b>		
<b>14th</b>	M Gibson	M Skeet L Grier	W Heath	L Grier
<b>21st</b>	M Skeet		No Service	
<b>28th</b>	W Heath	F Watts C Saxby	D Grier	M Skeet

### **READERS**

Dec. 10 Toy Service; Dec. 25 Jill, Paul. Jan 7th Benefice; 14th Wendy, Peter; 28th Family Service, Children.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE** at Monewden was held on Sunday, November 12, at 10.45 a.m., and was conducted by the Kathleen Martin . The Last Post was played extremely well by Henry Dinwiddy. There was a congregation of 27 and the collection will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

**COFFEE MORNING** will be on Saturday, Dec. 16th, from 10 a.m. onwards and Saturday 20th January at the same time. Coffee, tea and bacon rolls will be served. Come and join us, this monthly event is now very popular. The 100 Club draw prizes will be drawn at this event.

**LOCAL HISTORY:** November's meeting was a very interesting illustrated talk by John Wood on the history of Landguard Fort from its inception in the time of Henry VIII to its closure in 1971, detailing the many different forms the fort had taken in the past 400 or so years. The Christmas meeting, on December 13 will be a talk by Robert Simper entitled The River Deben for Source to Sea.. If the gentlemen could please bring a bottle of wine and the ladies, savouries, mince pies, etc. it would be much appreciated. The first meeting of the New Year, will be on January 10, when Tony Diamond will entertain us with the life and times of Oliver Cromwell.

**CMS BOXES:** Will all the people who have Church Mission Society collecting boxes endeavour to return them to Margaret Skeet some time in late November so that the donations go in this year's accounts.

**COMBINED TOY SERVICE:** The joint Toy Service, where we join with our friends from Dallinghoo, will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 10 a.m. at Monewden Church. Please bring gift wrapped presents for children, including teenagers, labelled suitably for gender and age ranges. As in previous years the gifts, and collection, will be sent to Lighthouse in Ipswich, where they are always gratefully received

**CAROL SERVICE:** Monewden Carol Service this year will be held in the church on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Supper will be available in the village hall after the service. If you would like to stay for supper please contact Kathleen Martin on 737285

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

**PCC MEETING:** There will be a PCC meeting on 5 February, 2018, at 7.30 p.m., at Firs Farm, Monewden

**VILLAGE HALL AGM:** This will take place on Friday 16th February at 7.30pm followed by a bring and share supper. Everyone welcome.

**FANCY A NEW HOBBY? .....**

Then join us at our monthly stitching session on **Friday 1 December and Friday 5 January 2018** in Monewden Village Hall 10am —12noon. We are a group of likeminded people sewing under the guidance of Alison Pearce who has over 25 years experience of Patchwork, Quilting, Applique and X-stitch. Whether you are experienced or a complete beginner you will be more than welcome to join us. Bring your own projects to work on or start from scratch. There will be a £5 charge per person per session. Some equipment/materials will be available at extra cost or bring your

own. Please call Alison on 01473 737155 to book your place or email Alison.pearce1970@yahoo.co.uk, if you are a regular member and are unable to attend, it would be appreciated if you could call and let me know. Refreshments will be provided. Call for more information. Look forward to sewing with you in the New Year. HAPPY STITCHING!

### ***LEATHERINGHAM NOTES***

#### **CAROL SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER**

**4PM**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**CONFIRMATION AND COMMISSIONING** On Sunday 29th October a large congregation gathered at St Michael's church, Framlingham for the deanery confirmation service. Three members of the Mid Loes Benefice were confirmed on this evening, John, Hannah and Heather. We wish them all the best for the future.



Also, during this service, Amber Pearce - Wright was commissioned as a LayElder by Bishop Martin. We wish her well in her ministry in the Mid Loes Benefice. She says "I am very excited to be part of the Ministry team and am looking forward to taking more services and trying to encourage more young people to get involved."