

MID LOES BENEFICE

Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach
Crettingham, Dallingham, Earl Soham,
Hoo, Letheringham and Monewden

November 2019

From The Rector

Dear friends

It doesn't seem very long since we had Harry Patch still with us - the last surviving veteran of the First World War - able to whisper his memories. Now only those well into their nineties can have any memories of serving in the Second, and childhood recollections of wartime must be accessible only to those in their eighties. The national living memory is fading, while subsequent generations do not so much literally remember as commemorate. But we mustn't quibble; the title 'Remembrance' still serves us well. There remains an enormous amount of archive material - written and filmed - to remind us of what occurred and shock us with the horror of it all, even if we cannot really know what it was like to have been there. Our imaginations can tell us enough to know that living in a country at war is not a desirable situation, whatever some of the more romantic or comic portrayals might suggest. Thus we can laugh along at the exploits of the 'Dad's Army' characters while at the same time knowing that war is a deadly serious business, and be thankful that, while our service personnel have continued to serve in distant conflicts, we are fortunate to be living in the longest period of peace this country has known.

Best wishes
Stephen



STUDY LEAVE III

During this twelve-week period beginning on December 26th, I intend to focus on two areas of theological study of particular interest, and have constructed a reading list accordingly. The first area is something called 'apophatic' theology. Put simply, this is the notion that because God is ultimately unknowable, then everything we say about God and all our concepts of God are bound to be inadequate. It is sometimes known as 'negative theology', i.e. speaking only of what God is *not*. It was first propounded fifteen hundred years ago, and meant entering what was called "the darkness that is beyond understanding" and being "wholly united with the Ineffable", which I'm hoping isn't as bleak as it sounds! At the very least, it means being cautious about too much 'God-talk' or claiming to know more about God than we actually do.

The second area I want to spend time thinking about (which is actually related to the first) is what is currently happening to the church of England. Church attendance nationally has been in steady decline for many generations, and the reasons for this are huge and complex. We might consider the industrial revolution, wars, cultural changes in patterns of work and leisure, communications, travel, technology, consumerism and many other enormous shifts that have taken place in the way that people live their lives. The Church's response to this, in my opinion, has actually hastened its demise, but I won't go into all that here! Suffice it to say that I have plenty to work on.

BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY

This month's Bible Study will be on Tuesday 19th November, 7:30pm at Monewden Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome, whether you have been before or not.

SB



CHRISTMAS STITCHING SESSION.....

There will be no monthly stitching in November, however we will be holding a Christmas

Stitching Day on **Saturday 9th November**, 10 – 4. where we will be stitching all things Christmas. We are a small friendly group from beginners to advanced stitchers, sewing under the guidance of Alison Pearce who has almost

30 years of experience in hand sewing, patchwork, quilting, applique and cross stitch. This year it will be held at my house, in Monewden, instead of the village hall , the cost will be £25 for the day including all materials and refreshments.

The monthly stitching sessions will resume on **December 6th** and will also be held in my house.

For more information call Alison on 01473 737155 or email: Alison.pearce1970@yahoo.co.uk.



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
Margaret Salter - 01473 737 182

Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence .

DALLINGHOO NOTES

Church Rotas

Date	Service/Readers	Sides people
Nov 3rd 10am	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION, ST PETER'S CRETINGHAM, 10AM, ALL WELCOME	
10.50am 10th	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	C Sullivan
11am 17th	Family Service Readers TBC	D Gill T Love

Flower and Cleaning Rota

2nd & 9th Nov - Linda

16th & 23rd - Barbara

30th Nov & 7th Dec - Sue Truman

Church Opening and Closing

4th Nov - Di

18th Nov - Tina

2nd December - Linda

NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th November will be another coffee morning to help raise money for the fabric fund of the church. Please come along and join us, it is a nice relaxed event to have a chat over a cuppa and a chance to buy some lovely cakes, in the vestry of the church.



DALLINGHOO CARPET BOWLS

This friendly group meets on alternate Wednesday's in Dallingham Village Hall at 7.30pm. Play finishes around 9.30pm and there is a coffee break in the middle.

Beginners always welcome and help and tactful tuition available if required. In November we meet on 6th & 20th.

Good gentle exercise and a pleasant social evening.

Contact Cliff Green 01473 737421



The Dallingham Church Repair Fund
Raising money to repair St Mary's church, Dallingham

Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 1st December

Dallingham Village Hall 2 - 4 pm
Including: Stalls, **children's activities**, teas and
Santa has promised to visit - his transport is always a surprise!
Entry 50p. Please come and bring your friends.

NEW NOTICE BOARD FOR DALLINGHOO

Some of you may have spotted the new notice board that has recently appeared as the old one was getting 'past it's sell by date'!

It has been designed and made by a local carpenter who used oak for the project. I think you will agree he has done an excellent job.

The funding for this was achieved via an East Suffolk Council Community Grant arranged by our local Councillor Colin Hedgley for which I would like to express my sincere thanks. Hopefully it will serve us for many years to come.

Chris Ling

Parish Meeting Chairman

St Mary's Church, Dallingham - repairs update

As parishioners may know, the vestry guttering and soffits were repaired in April. The second phase of repairs is about to begin. This will be the nave guttering on the south side. For this we have secured a grant that nearly covers the cost. We had hoped to replace the north side guttering at the same time but the tenders came in higher than expected.

VPH Scaffolding will begin erection on Monday 28th October. They will install their own alarm system to augment ours. Our contractor, J Hogg, will complete the work before Christmas.

We are also working on the tender for the main programme. We are aiming to issue this by the end of November and chose our main contractor in January. Since the winning bid must be a part of the applications, once we have chosen the contractor, we can apply to the larger grant givers. The last, and potentially the largest grant giver, won't make their decision until the end of July 2020. When we hear all the decisions, we will then have to reshape our scope to fit our funds (!) with the target of commencing the work in September 2020.

Robin Tye



DALLINGHOO FIREWORK NIGHT

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 6.30pm

FIRE LIGHTS 7pm

FIREWORKS 7.15pm APPROX

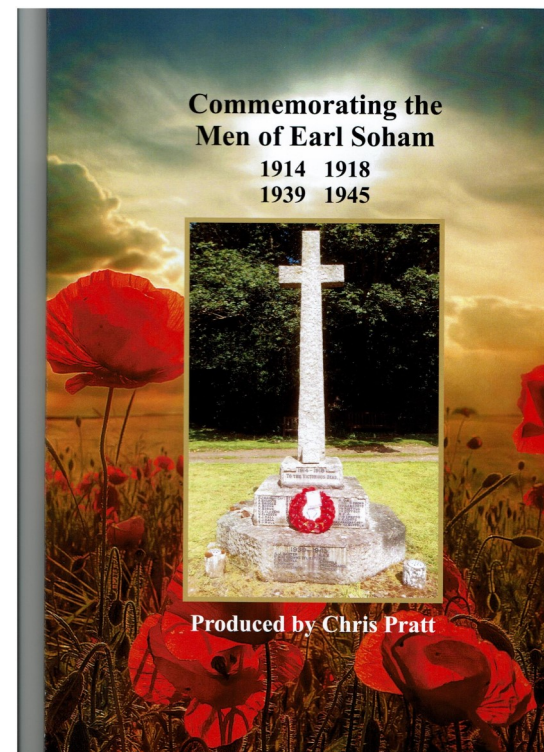
FOOD AND DRINKS (Hot & Cold)

FREE ENTRY, DONATIONS WOULD BE GRATEFULLY
RECEIVED



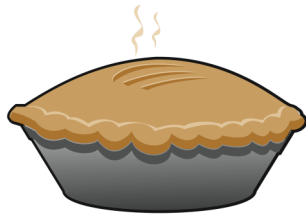
EARL SOHAM NOTES

Rota for the Altar and Roll of Honour Flowers and Brasses-St. Mary's		
NOVEMBER	Mrs Tinkler	Mrs Patterson
DECEMBER	Mrs Crimp	Mrs Crimp
Any problems phone Lyn—685278		



“Some of you may have seen the loose leaf Book of Remembrance which is left in St Mary’s Church during Remembrance Week. This is now being produced as an A3 book which I hope to have ready for this year’s Remembrance. At the time of going to press a final cover price had not been agreed but we anticipate £5 to £7.50. All the proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the War Memorial. If you would be interested in buying a copy, subject of course to view, please let me know on 685745 or chris.annel@btinternet.com”.

MINCE PIES



TEA & COFFEE

STALLS CAKES

TOMBOLA

**Come and start the Christmas
season with us**

and make a Christingle too

Saturday November 23rd

2.30 – 4.30

Earl Soham Village Hall

IN AID OF ST MARYS CHURCH



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 29th November 3-5pm

Earl Soham School Hall

Cakes

Grand raffle

Festive crafts

Refreshments

Competitions

Fun stalls

Face painting

All proceeds to Earl Soham PTFA

ALL WELCOME

SUFFOLK CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

A big 'thank you' to all those who stepped in to support the above.
Earl Soham had 25 cyclists visiting, all who would have received a great welcome at St Mary's! The porch was beautifully decorated and the 3 cyclists from Earl Soham raised over £100 for the cause.

Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Mary Patterson

EARL SOHAM BOWLS CLUB

BEETLE DRIVE

Saturday, 16th November at 7.30 pm
in

EARL SOHAM VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £6 (Juniors £4)
to include Ploughman's Supper & Coffee/Tea
available from

01728 685519 (Pam Sykes) or
01728 685681 (Rachel Carter)

Please bring your own drinks & glasses

RAFFLE

In aid of Bowls Club Funds



Earl Soham WI

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of every month, except August, at Earl Soham Village Hall. New members are always assured a warm welcome. If you join the WI, you can look forward to making a lot of new friends as well as enjoying talks on a wide range of subjects so why not come along and join in?

Thursday 28th November 2019

Annual Meeting – Reflections on the past year and plans for the next

WI Secretary: Mrs Daphne Dale 01728 621292

EARL SOHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The transition from nursery to school.

At Earl Soham School we consider carefully the transition from nursery to school, as it can be a stressful time for children as well as for parents, and focus on change as a good thing. We ensure the transition is as smooth, happy and successful as possible by providing opportunity for children to meet the staff and visit the school before they start in September. This can be an effective way to increase children's confidence.

During the summer term I began by visiting the children at the nursery they attended and then sent a personal invite to the children to visit their new class. The children also received a booklet which included photographs of all key staff and of different locations around the school.

Last week the new families were invited into the classroom to discuss next steps for their children with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. It was great to see that all parents attended and we could discuss future meetings to support their child. To their horror we have planned a phonics lesson. I have reassured them that it will be fun!

The children have already taken part in their first whole school event when they performed at the church for Harvest Festival. They are now very much looking forward to the Carol Service in December.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise the way in which older pupils welcome and support the new intake without any prompting or persuading.

Mrs Stoney – Red Class Teacher

The school is planning a second open morning for new pupils (September 2020) on **Tuesday 19th November**. Please contact the school office for details (01728 685359). If you cannot make the date please contact us and make an appointment for a different time – we would love to see you.

Dates:

Friday 29th November : Christmas Fayre 3-5pm. Earl Soham School Hall. Proceeds to the PTFA. All welcome.



As the shorter days and darker nights of autumn are now upon us, I was delighted to learn that the Rural Coffee Caravan has launched its **Warm Homes** initiative, helping people in Suffolk to stay warm and well at home.

For some, it can be a struggle to pay heating bills, or to cover the cost of insulating your home, but the Rural Coffee Caravan can provide advice on what help and support might be available.

They can help with:

- Personal advice to keep your home warmer and more energy efficient
- Getting your home properly insulated, including draught proofing
- Practical assistance and advice on switching energy supplier, SMART meters and community bulk buying schemes
- Advice on grants and benefits
- Emergency repairs to boilers and heating (subject to terms)
- Eligibility for emergency fuel payments
- Loan of temporary heaters in event of emergency
- Advice on central heating installation for homes which have never had a boiler or radiators

Being truly prepared for winter also means thinking about others in the community – perhaps an elderly friend or neighbour? We already have a great sense of community here in Suffolk and much to be proud of with some of our local volunteering initiatives and partnerships, but as the colder weather is upon us, please take the time to look out for others who may be vulnerable and less able to manage alone.

Especially during colder months, hot meals and drinks can help to keep us warm and for those who are less able or perhaps live alone, taking time to eat and keep up energy levels can easily be overlooked. Having at least one hot meal per day and several hot drinks throughout the day can really help to sustain heat and I know that those who deliver care in our communities, whether professional services or family carers, play a vital and selfless role in supporting those in need.

Knowing what's going on in our communities isn't always easy, especially when many of us are busy with work commitments. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful county as Suffolk, but at the same time, living in a rural county can also bring challenges. The Rural Coffee Caravan visits communities across Suffolk, delivering information and friendship – equipped with coffee, tea and home-made cakes, the team bring along all sorts of helpful information, but crucially they offer a friendly environment on your doorstep for a chat and a cup of tea.

For further information, contact 03456 037686, or visit in person. Further details, including locations, can be found at www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES Church Rotas

Date	Readers	Sides person
Nov 3rd 10am Benefice Holy Communion Cretingham	All Welcome	
Nov 10th 10.45am Remembrance Service Charsfield	TBA	TBA
Nov 10th 3.00pm Remembrance Service Debach		
Nov 17th 6.30pm Evening Prayer	Ros Stephanie	Stephanie
Nov 24th 10am Holy Communion	Cherry Pam	Pam

Cleaning Rota for November

2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
No Cleaning	Stephanie Margaret	Fran	Gill Beverley	Sarah

Flower Rota for November

2nd Nov	9th & 16th	23rd & 30th
Anthea Pulham	Bev Gugenheim	Lucy Fox

Coffee Rota

November ...Pauline

Harvest Supper

Our Harvest Supper on Saturday 28th September was a very happy occasion with much laughter. My thanks to all who contributed by getting the hall ready, slaving in the kitchen, donating food or raffle prizes and also to all those who attended our friendly bash.

As to the erroneous 'question/answer' about the first President of the United States of America; after much burning of the midnight oil, I have come up with the following:

The first President under the US Constitution was in 1781 – John Hanson. He became the first of eight men APPOINTED to serve one year terms as president under the Articles of Confederation. His title was *First President of the United States in Congress Assembled, under the Articles of Confederation*. It was he who was responsible for establishing Thanksgiving Day as the 4th Thursday in November;

4th February 1789 – the first presidential ELECTION takes place;

6th April 1789 – George Washington is elected First President of the United States under the Constitution with 69 electoral votes;

30th April 1789 – George Washington is inaugurated as the first President of the United States;

As for Abraham Lincoln, he was the sixteenth president, elected to office 1861-1865.

Apparently there is much discussion as to whether Hanson or Washington was first President. I will leave you to make your own decision!

Sheila G.

Diary Date

On **Friday 6th December at 7pm for 7.30pm** the **Ipswich Hospital Band** will be performing in St Peter's, Charsfield. From modest beginnings, the band is now in great demand in the area and we are lucky to have been able to book time in their busy schedule. To find out more about them and their music, look on www.ipswichhospitalband.org.uk.

Mulled wine and light refreshments will be served. Entry £10, payable on the door.

It promises to be a great evening...a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities... Do come!

Charsfield Baptist Chapel

Sunday services

11am each week

Coffee Pot

Every Tuesday from 10-12

At the chapel hall



There is a warm welcome for all. We hope you can join us.

Further information available from:

Mary Rowe on 01728 582243

Personal prayer The chapel is open each morning, Monday - Saturday for personal prayer between 9.30 and 10.30am.

Singalong Suppers

Friday 1st November and 6th December 2019

Held once a month in the Chapel hall. We start each evening at 6.30pm with something of general interest for half an hour. We then enjoy a buffet meal together. This is followed by a 'singalong' of hymns and songs at 8pm, finishing at 9pm. Do come and join us - you will be most welcome.

LAMB FOR THE FREEZER

Half or quarter of lamb or smaller packs ready for the freezer

For more information contact Brian Martin on 01473 737285

**St. Elizabeth Hospice Coffee Morning,
30th November 2019. 10am to 12 noon.**

To be held at 2, St. Peter's Close, Charsfield, By kind permission of Jan Pedgrift.

We look forward to seeing you all at our annual Coffee Morning, to raise funds for our local Hospice. It's a jolly event where we catch up with friends and neighbours over a cuppa and mouthwatering cakes! Christmas raffle and hand made crafts available for purchase. Do come along and start the Christmas season off in style!



Joyce and Dave Whitley
01473 737549

Charsfield Village Hall & Recreation Ground
Present an evening of

Music ... Magic ... Comedy

Charsfield Village Hall

Saturday 30th November

Music with Dennis Maisey Comedy with Ron Markwell

and we welcome back the **Hilarious Magic Vicar**

Hosted by Peter Holloway with another trick up his sleeve!

Tickets : £ 10 Doors open 7pm Bar

Telephone: 01473 737243 or 01473 277166

www.magic@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk

MONNEWDEN NOTES

Church Rotas

Date	Flowers & Brasses	Cleaning	Sides person	Coffee
Nov 3rd	K Martin	W Heath	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION 10AM at CRETINGHAM, ALL WELCOME	
10th	W Heath		M Skeet	W Heath
17th	F Watts	M Skeet L Grier		
24th	S Kingston		L Grier	A Pearce

READERS

Nov. 10 Remembrance Service; Nov.24 Family Service

CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE: The PCC would like to thank anybody who cycled or church sat for this event, 50 per cent of their sponsorship is returned directly to their church, for which I am sure our treasurer will be most grateful.

HARVET SUPPER: This year's harvest supper took on a different format. To start the evening we had a very interesting talk on cider making, with various samples to taste! This was followed by a delicious hot meal prepared by the ladies of the village. Thank you to all who were concerned in its preparation. All in all the evening was a great success.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE: This service will be held in St. Mary's, Monewden on Sunday, November 10 at 10.45 a.m. The collection will be for the Royal British Legion.

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on Saturday, Nov. 16th, from 10 a.m. onwards. 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.

100 CLUB PRIZES: October: £25 Mrs. Lisa Grier; £15 Mrs. B. Cole; £10 Mrs. M. Osijo.

LOCAL HISTORY: Our October meeting was a interesting talk given by Mr. J. Barbrook. The November meeting, on the 13th, will see David Phelan talking about St. Audry's Workhouse and Mental Hospital. New members and guests will be made most welcome.

WINE TASTING: This much awaited annual event will be held in the village hall on Friday, November 29th at 7.30 p.m. in aid of Monewden Church Appeal Fund. As in previous years Jonathan Williamson from Wines of Interest will be talking us through a tasting session of ten wines, delivered in his usual entertaining and informative style. Tickets will be £12, including buffet, and can be obtained from David Grier on 737298 or Brian Martin on 737285.



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.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

COMBINED TOY SERVICE: The joint Toy Service, where we join with our friends from Dallinghoo, will take place on Sunday, December 8 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 20th at 7 p.m., followed by supper in the village hall. More details next month.

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Church	Nov 3rd 4th Before Advent <i>Green</i>	Nov 10th 3rd before Advent <i>REMEMBRANCE</i> <i>Red</i>	Nov 17th 2nd Before Advent <i>Green</i>	Nov 24th <i>Christ the King</i> <i>White</i>
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	↓	6.30pm Evening Prayer & Remembrance	6.30pm Holy Communion	---
Chars field w. Debach	↓	10.45am Remembrance 3pm Debach	6.30pm Evening Prayer	10.am Holy Communion
Cretingham	10am Benefice Holy Communion	10.50am Remembrance	10.am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Evening Prayer & Holy Communion
Dallinghoo	↑	10.45am Remembrance	10am Family Service Harvest	---
Earl Soham	↑	10.50am Remembrance	10am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion 10.am Family Service
Hoo	↑	<i>To Letheringham</i>	---	8.30am Morning Prayer
Monewden	↑	10.45am Holy Communion & Remembrance	-----	10am Family Harvest
Letheringham	↑	8.30am Holy Communion & Remembrance	-----	-----

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2019



	Holy Communion	MP or EP	Psalm
November 3rd	2 Thessalonians Ch 1 Luke Ch 19 vs 1-10		
November 10th	2 Thessalonians Ch 2 vs 1-5, 13-end Luke Ch 20 vs 27-38	Job Ch 19 vs 23-27a Luke Ch 20 vs 27-38	Psalm 17 vs 1-9
November 17th	2 Thessalonians Ch 3 vs 6-13 Luke Ch 21 vs 5-19	Malachi Ch 4 vs 1-2a Luke Ch 21 vs 5-19	Psalm 98
November 24th	Colossians Ch 1 vs 11-20 Luke Ch 23 vs 33-43	Jeremiah Ch 23 vs 1-6 Luke Ch 23 vs 33-43	Psalm 46
December 1st	Romans Ch 13 vs 11-end Matthew Ch 24 vs 36-44		

**The Benefice Service on
Sunday 1st December
Will be hosted by
St Peters, Charsfield
All Welcome**

HOO NOTES

CYCLE RIDE

We had a nice number of visitors on the cycle ride, good to see some of the old faces and also new ones. It was a lovely day be it a bit windy.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival went very well, thanks to Kathleen, who took a very nice service also Rodger who played the organ. The church once again looked lovely, many thanks to all who gave fruit and veg and decorated the church. Gay and Michael very kindly took the goods to Families In Need, in Ipswich for which they were very grateful.

*God Bless
Margaret Doe*

Smiles!!

A mother was watching her four year-old son playing outside in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. He was walking back and forth across the pool with an expression of great concentration on his face and making big splashes. Suddenly the little boy stopped, stepped out of the pool, and with a look of disgust, began to scoop water out of the pool with a bucket. "What's wrong dear?" asked the mother. "My teacher said Jesus walked on water, and this water doesn't work," he replied.

A School Inspector visited a primary School in the East End of London. On entering the Class, all the Children stood up; he said "Please be seated." He asked one girl, "Give me three numbers", she answered 456, he replied 654. He asked another boy "Give me three numbers", he said 789, and he replied 987; there was no response from the class. He pointed to another boy and said, "Give me three numbers", and he replied "333 n and see if you can muck that about!"

News from High Suffolk Rotary *See Facebook for more!*


**WE NEED
YOU
TO JOIN
OUR
CREW**

Professionals, Skilled workers, Business people, Community Leaders... all using their skills to benefit others. And having a good time doing it. **Want to help? Then get in touch.**

 Email: info@highsuffolkrotary.org

 www.highsuffolkrotary.org

 Highsuffolkrotary

Join Rotary
Make friends
Have fun
Help others

"They moved a town"!

One of the great things about Rotary is that you meet all sorts of people with all sorts of interests. Many of our meetings include a guest speaker. Sometimes it's one of our own, as in the case of Harry, who travels a lot in Scandinavia, and recently gave a talk about Kiruna in Sweden - which was moved lock, stock and barrel to avoid subsidence caused by a nearby mine! Other recent meetings have included talks on "The River Gipping Trust" and "The Battle of Trafalgar".

"What a shame..."

That was the response of one person to the news that we had to **cancel our 5th annual Ceilidh at Debenham Leisure Centre.**

We thought so too. It was not a decision that we took lightly. But with less than 40 tickets sold, we could not take the risk of losing money on a charity event.

Next year? We don't know at the moment. Maybe the idea has run its course. Maybe we need to find something else. If you have any suggestions for a fun fund-raising event, please get in touch. Better still - join us and help "Make It Happen".

SANTA IS ON HIS WAY!



Yes, he's booked his transport with is already! Here are the dates for this year:

Eye	Tues 10th Dec
Stradbroke	Wed 11th Dec
Debenham(1)	Mon 16th Dec
Debenham(2)	Tue 17th Dec

All Santa's tours start at about 6pm and will be finished by 8pm.

Details of the routes will be posted on our website by the end of November.

SANTA NEEDS HELP!

We need more elves to help with the collection. Can you help - please?
Rewards include good exercise, big smiles on faces young and old, and a very Christmassy feeling!
Contact us at info@highsuffolkrotary.org

CRETINGHAM NOTES

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Month	Altar Flowers	Cleaning
November	Mrs Coe	Mrs Oliver
December	Mrs Defoe	Mrs Runacres

Thank you so much to all those who placed food in the church for Harvest. All has been gathered in and taken to a Food Bank ran by "Stowmarket Churches Together" which is run by volunteers. I was so impressed when I visited their store room where every item has the date written on its end and then stored so nothing goes out of date and rotation is easily seen. Also everything we gave was weighed and recorded in their donations book. Every food package that is handed out is also weighed and this assures that there is accountability for the Charity. So thank you everyone again.

Services for November in St. Peters Church.

BENEFICE SERVICE on Sunday 3rd November with Holy Communion in St. Peters at 10am. Stay for a coffee/tea, biscuit and chat afterwards.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY is on 10th November at 10.50am.

MORNING PRAYER on 17th November at 10 am.

EVENING PRAYER will now be at 4 pm due to the evenings getting very dark and thinking of the safety of our congregation. This months Evening Prayer with Holy Communion will be on 24th November.

Thank you so much to all those who placed food in the church for Harvest. All has been gathered in and taken to a Food Bank ran by "Stowmarket Churches Together" which is run by volunteers. I was so impressed when I visited their store room where every item has the date written on its end and then stored so nothing goes out of date and rotation is easily seen. Also everything we gave was weighed and recorded in their donations book. Every food package that is handed out is also weighed and this assures that there is accountability for the Charity. So thank you everyone again.



Cretingham PCC (Parochial Church Council) – we are a very small group who meet alternate months and would love to have some more voices to contribute to the exciting plans for the church to ensure it is around for many more years! If you are interested please don't hesitate to have a chat with one of your Churchwardens – Alister or Heather.

Cretingham PCC (Parochial Church Council) – we are a very small group who meet alternate months and would love to have some more voices to contribute to the exciting plans for the church to ensure it is around for many more years! If you are interested please don't hesitate to have a chat with one of your Churchwardens – Alister or Heather.

Don't forget to put the Christmas dates in your diary ...

Christmas Stalls Saturday 10am – 12noon on 14th December with cakes, gifts, raffle and refreshments all in St. Peter's Church. Also chance to be the first to see the wonderful Christmas Flower arrangements.

Carol Singing at The Bell Wednesday 18th December.

Carol Service Sunday 22nd December at 4 pm. Do please join us.

Christmas Day at 10.30 am will be an all age worship (approx.. 45 mins) with extended Communion.

New Years Eve Compline Service will be at 11.45 pm.



SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

Although the number of cyclists visiting our church was disappointing this year – just 28 over the 8 hours of the ride's duration – two of our early visitors were sponsored to ride for St Peter's. **Monty Gardiner** (escorted by mum, **Linda**) and **Larry Bosman** made an early start to the day and went on to visit 11 churches before arriving home around 3pm.

Thank you **Monty, Linda and Larry** and congratulations for raising £423 between you for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Monty was sponsored to the tune of £218 and Larry £205. A splendid effort – so thank you also to all those generous folk who came up with the sponsorship cash!

Thank you also to the patient folk who sat in church to record the cyclists – David Defoe, Linda Whiting, Heather Whiting, Judith Hale and Alister Gourlay. Although we had less than 30 visitors it is always a delight to be able to share something of the story of St Peter's with the cyclists – many of whom are intrigued by our box-pews and the history behind our Cornwallis monuments and Royal Crest.

St Peter's 100 Club

The re-launched 100 Club got off to a colourful start with the first draw which took place at the Harvest Supper in September. First prize (£25) was member number 21 – Eric Brown and second prize (£15) went to member number 72 – Carol Brown.

In October only the second prize was awarded (no-one having purchased the first-drawn number) and it went to member number 54 – Chris Davidson.

There are still tickets available for purchase – £24 for a run of 12 monthly draws. £25 and £15 prizes at 10 of the draws with £50 and £30 prizes in December and July (Fete). Please contact me if you would like to take part – payment can be made by cash, cheque (payable to PCC Cretingham) or by BACS (Lloyds Bank sort code 30-99-85 Account 00038145). Alister Gourlay (email alister.gourlay@gmail.com or phone 01728 685335)

Friends of St Peters

You do not have to spend long in Cretingham before you realise that hardly a week goes by without a Village Social

.The explanation lies in the fact that although a small village, some 100 houses, there are no less than five flourishing organisations, The Cretingham Monewden and Hoo Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Village Committee, the Townlands Trust and the Friends of St Peter's.

The Friends, known affectionately as FSOPs , was the brain child of the late Stuart Barber, a London barrister who, with his wife Marion, for many years made his second home in Cretingham. They joined the small regular congregation to worship at the ancient church of St Peter.

The church, standing on the banks of the Deben, was cold, it was draughty, it was damp. The paint was peeling from the walls, the memorials, in particular that of the legless knight, were in disrepair.

Discussions with friends in that other village institution, The Bell, where the temperature was decidedly warmer, revealed a concern amongst fellow residents about the condition of the fabric of the church and so the idea of the Friends was developed.

FSOPs was to be a secular organisation with charitable status whose object would be to raise money towards the preservation of our little church. The money would be donated to the PCC for specific projects and would be raised by arranging village social events.

Since its beginnings in 1997, FSOPs has raised £1000s through the hard work and generosity of villagers.

Projects funded and co-funded have included addressing the problem of damp in the church and redecorating, installing solar panels on the tower to provide both warmth and an income from the electricity sold into the grid, rebuilding the brick and flint church yard wall, restoring the historic memorials, and most recently, casting a sixth bell, the Peace Bell, to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, and renovating and rehangng the existing five bells which date back to the fifteenth century.

The next project, still very much in the development stage, will be a joint enterprise with the PCC to raise funds to create a usable village space within the church served by modern facilities including a small kitchen and toilet.

Watch this space for details of fund raising events!

First up: FSOPs AGM, Quiz and sausage and mash supper at The Bell on Tuesday November 19th at 7.30pm. RSVP Katy 07813609722 or

kshircliff@hotmail.com

NEXT TIME: The Townlands Trust.

ASHFIELD NOTES

VENERABLE IAN MORGAN, **ARCHDEACON OF SUFFOLK**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Archdeacon Ian after a long period of ill health. For a number of years Ian and his family lived at Glebe House in Ashfield. Whilst the demands of his job precluded him from getting very involved with village life I was certainly grateful for his advice with regards to church building matters and on occasion leading our services even playing the organ as part of that too. Our deepest sympathies go to his widow Tracey and the family at this very sad time.

HARVEST SUPPER 2019

This ever popular event took place on 5th October. We were entertained both before and after the Supper by 'Bristol Fashion' with an array of traditional rural musical instruments and songs written by local characters many years ago. As always the three course supper was ably put together by a team of helpers and I am sure enjoyed by all present. A big thank you to all who helped in any way and to everyone that supported the evening. I am able to report that as the result of the evening £550.31 was raised for church funds.

RG.

We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Clare to the role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Ashfield Parish Council. Sarah is also Clerk to Worlingworth Parish Council.

Sarah can be contacted regarding Parish Council matters by email to actpc.clerk@gmail.com or via her mobile 07801 628591

Ashfield Parish Council

LEATHERINGHAM NOTES

REMEMBRANCE

There will be a service on Remembrance Sunday at 8.30am to include Holy Communion and our friends from Hoo will be joining us. Everyone Welcome.

BENEFICE SERVICE

The Benefice Holy Communion Service for November will be held at Cretingham On 3rd at 10am and everyone from the whole benefice is very welcome.



A Poem for Remembrance Day

"The inquisitive mind of a child"



Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?

Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?



Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child,
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.

Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?

Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.



(Author Unknown)

(<http://www.anzacday.org.au/anzacservices/poetry/inquisitive.htm>)

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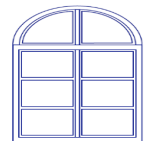
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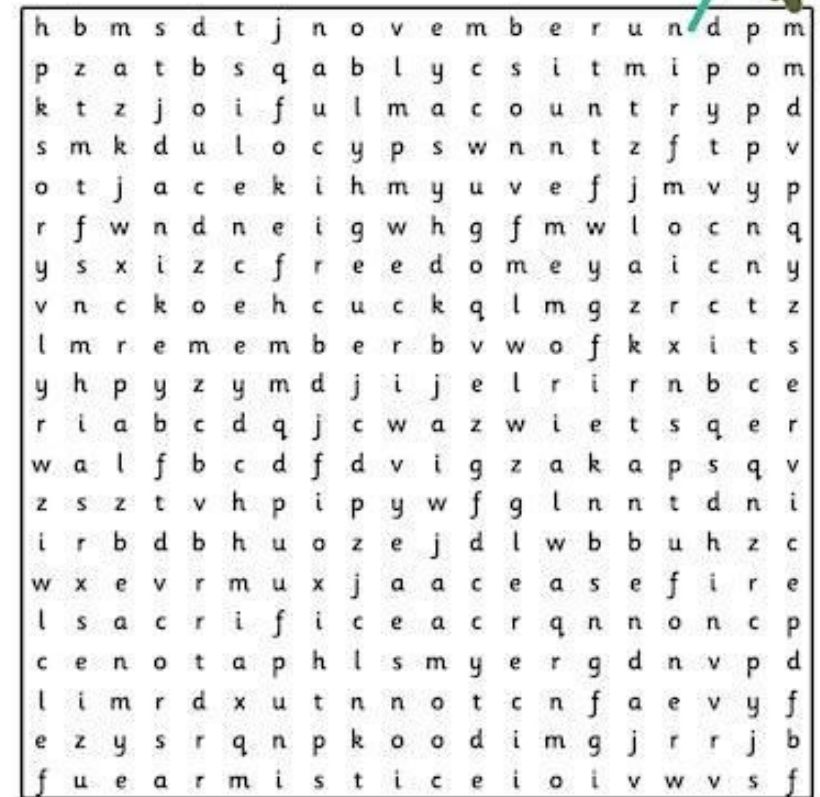
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Young Readers Page

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 silence Cenotaph