

**MID LOES BENEFICE**  
**Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach**  
**Cretingham, Dallinghoo, Earl Soham,**  
**Hoo, Letheringham and Monewden**  
**February 2021**

*Note From Your Curate*

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes I received over the Christmas period, they were very much appreciated. Sadly as you know, public worship has been suspended in this Benefice at this time, but we are hoping to review the situation at the end of February.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February we celebrate Candlemas Day, this ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. A time to celebrate the increase in strength of the life – giving sun as winter gives way to spring.

Candlemas can mean different things to different people. Candlemas is a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, forty days after the birth of Jesus and the presentation of baby Jesus to God at the Temple at Jerusalem. In Luke's Gospel Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon, who held the baby and called him "Light of the World." On this day all the candles that were used in the church in the coming year were brought into the church and blessed. Light brings life, light brings warmth, light brings joy.

The weather on Candlemas day was thought to predict the weather for the rest of the winter. My father used to relate the old farmer's proverb, "A farmer should on Candlemas Day still have half his corn and half his hay." These are just a few of the things associated with Candlemas

In the dark days of February of 2021 we can celebrate both the Feast of Candlemas and the roll out of Covid 19 vaccine. Covid 19 has brought darkness and despair to so many people around the world. We all pray that this is the beginning of the end of this pandemic

May both Candlemas and the vaccine bring light, hope, joy and love to all.

Love and prayers, Kathleen

**EARL SOHAM NOTES**

Rota for the Altar and Roll of Honour Flowers and Brasses-St. Mary's

As we are still in uncertain times I will publish the rota next month when hopefully we have a bit more normality.

Thanks to you all..

Stay safe... Lyn—685278

**Earl Soham Parish Council and Walnes Seeds**

On behalf of the residents of Earl Soham, the Parish Council would like to thank Walnes Seeds for the donation of a fabulous Christmas Tree, which was erected in pride of place on the Village Green.

Also, we would like to thank councillor Mark Rutherford and his wife Sue to putting it up, decorating it and ensuring we had a display of Christmas lights throughout the festive period.

We have had many compliments from residents of the village which showed it was clearly appreciated. This donation by Walnes Seeds has made such a big difference over the last few years - many thanks.

David Grose

Chairman

Earl Soham Parish Council



1 Corinthians 13:4

## **HOO NOTES**

### **BENEFICE SERVICE**

Hoo Church was pleased to welcome worshippers from outside the Parish for their Benefice Service on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **CAROL SERVICE**

Having advertised the Christmas Eve Carol Service in the December 2020 issue of this magazine, we were very disappointed to have to cancel at short notice due to the uncertainty of the Covid 19 pandemic. We had anticipated being able to dedicate the Carol Service collection to our charity appeal for FIND (Families in Need), but nevertheless we received gifts of goods and money and were able to deliver eight carrier bags of essential items to FIND the following week.

We thank everybody who contributed and hope that we can celebrate with carols this December of 2021.

### **WELCOME**

Elm Tree Farm is now the home of Mr & Mrs Alexander & we send a warm welcome to the Parish of HOO.



## **CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES**

### **Church Rotas**

**The Parochial Church Council regrets that due to Covid restrictions, Services at St Peter's Church, Charsfield are suspended until further notice.**

**The church is open for Private Prayer, subject to Covid precautions being in place.**

### **CHARSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL SPREAD A LITTLE HAPPINESS THIS CHRISTMAS**

In this unprecedented time, pupils at Charsfield Primary School have been looking at how they can make a difference in the community and improve mental health and wellbeing of themselves and others around them. For a small school of just 38 pupils, they have made an incredible difference to the lives of many others this term. Here are just a few of the things that the school has been involved in. The school was delighted to be able to support the Lighthouse Women's Aid in Ipswich with their reverse advent calendar appeal. Pupils and their families generously donated gifts and essentials throughout the beginning of Advent, to help families that are less fortunate than themselves through a particularly challenging time in their lives. Debbie, the Fundraising and Training Administrator from Lighthouse Women's Aid, ran a virtual assembly for the children to explain how their thoughtfulness will help.

Secondly, as part of the 'Suffolk Says Thanks' campaign, the school has furthered their links with Handford House Nursing Home set up during the summer lockdown. The pupils had discussed the campaign, 'Cards for Kindness', an initiative which aims to reduce loneliness in our care homes by encouraging members of the community to send a card to a local care home. The Handford House residents had kindly sent the pupils a handmade Christmas card and the children reciprocated with great enthusiasm creating a wonderful collection of Christmas drawings made into a large book full of festive wishes. Mrs Foster, who is a Teaching Assistant at the school and the lead for Mental Health and Wellbeing,



said "The staff are so proud of how the children have thrown themselves into this task, and how much they thought they gave about the people it was going to; with a genuine desire to bring happiness to other people that they don't even know. We look forward to continuing links with this nursing home in 2021."

The school has been delighted to be able to raise lots of money for various charities this half term, particularly

when so many people have found this year financially challenging. Pupils and staff dressed up in spots and stripes for Children in Need, designed and sold their own Christmas cards to raise money for the Salvation Army and finally donned their festive jumpers for the Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on December 11<sup>th</sup>. In total, the school raised £150 for these charities.

In true "the show must go on spirit," the PTA stepped in to fund a virtual showing of Cinderella for the pupils as they were not able to attend the Wolsey Theatre Panto. This was made all the more special by the staff surprising them by dressing up as characters from the story, and then being ushers showing them to their seats and issuing them with popcorn. Even Father Christmas upped his game this year to reward the pupils and 'went virtual' and sent the pupils an incredibly special video message and a small gift each.

Head of School, Mrs Amie Reeve said, "Charsfield Primary School have certainly shown that a bit of thought and kindness can make such a difference to so many people lives, in what will certainly be a Christmas to remember for a very long time to come." Sadly, for the start of the Spring Term the school has had to move to online learning for the majority of our pupils using Google Classrooms. Teachers are running daily online lessons with pupils, as well as setting independent tasks across all the subjects (not just maths and English!). Feedback from parents and pupils has been really positive and many of our children were disappointed not to be able to return to the classroom because of the 3rd national lockdown. We hope to see our pupils return to "normal" learning very soon.

In the meantime, the school is still open so if you would like to find out more about us please call 01473 737347 or look at our website [www.charsfieldprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.charsfieldprimaryschool.org.uk)



## ***ASHFIELD NOTES***

### **CHRIS BELLAMY RIP.**

It was with sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Chris at home at the end of November. He and his widow Bridget had been in Ashfield for many years. A funeral service for Chris took place at St Mary's just before Christmas when 30 [the maximum permitted at present] members of his family came together for a short service followed by burial in the churchyard.

We hold Bridget and the family in our thoughts at this sad time.

### **SUSPENSION OF SCHEDULED CHURCH SERVICES.**

Just after New Year the UK went back into lockdown because of the worsening Covid19 situation. Whilst the holding of church services is still permitted under the latest rules we have taken the decision to suspend collective worship for the time being at St Mary's and across the benefice. The personal wellbeing of our congregation and wider populace must take precedence.

During this latest period of lockdown our Ministry Team is putting together some resources weekly for people to use at home. If you would like to be in receipt of this ministry resource please let myself or Jane Davidson know and we can forward it to you in time for the upcoming Sunday.

### **QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION.**

Every five years there is a requirement to have the church building inspected by a professional architect. This process is known as a quinquennial inspection [QI]. St Mary's had its most recent QI just before Christmas. Whilst I am relieved that the inspection didn't reveal anything too major there will be some works to be undertaken in the foreseeable future. Once I have had a chance to look at the requirements and discussed with the PCC I shall let everyone know what is happening and the likely funding we will need to raise to accomplish this.

RG.

**02 January 2021**

At the time of my writing, the Prime Minister has addressed the nation once more and we find ourselves living under further restrictions, with the current advice being to stay at home to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Whilst there is no doubt that in fighting the old variant of the virus, our collective efforts were working, but we now face the added challenge of the new strain of the virus, which is between 50% and 70% more transmissible. This new strain has led to a rapid surge in infections, hospital admissions and increased case rates across the country, including here in Suffolk.

If we are to protect our NHS and in turn, ourselves and our loved ones, we must all play our part and follow the guidance so that our NHS can focus on the herculean task of delivering the critical vaccination programme. It is the vaccination that will finally free us from this virus and the restrictions it brings to all our daily lives

Vaccinations have already begun here in Suffolk and I have been lobbying Ministers and Public Health colleagues to ensure that we have adequate site provision here in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich. Our public health team and NHS colleagues here in Suffolk are working tirelessly to deliver the vaccines as quickly and efficiently as possible, to those most in need and I would echo their plea to ask residents not to block phone lines to GP surgeries or hospitals enquiring about when the vaccine might be available – residents will be contacted directly, in turn, and invited to attend their nearest site for vaccination.

Whilst I and indeed, our Prime Minister, understand just how frustrating this latest lockdown is, it is vital that we all continue to take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and those most vulnerable in our communities and to slow the spread of the virus. Again, I would like to thank each and every one of you who are continuing to play your part and following the rules – we're all in this together and the sooner we stick with it, the sooner we can start to return to normal.

It is vital that throughout lockdown, we continue to protect jobs and our local economy, and the Chancellor has unveiled further financial support for businesses and individuals. Locally, the **Suffolk Support and Advice Line** can help with financial and employment advice - **0800 068 3131**. In addition, the **Home But Not Alone** free phonenumber, supporting the most vulnerable in our communities is available via **0800 876 6926**. Both lines are staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

As your MP, I shall always work hard for the people of Central Suffolk and North Ipswich and if there is anything I can help with, please get in touch via [www.drdanielpoulter.co.uk](http://www.drdanielpoulter.co.uk)

## **CRETINGHAM NOTES**

### **Flower and Cleaning Rota**

2021	Altar Flowers	Cleaning
February	As per rota	Churchwardens Covid 19

Although Christmas couldn't be celebrated in quite the same way it was heartening to see a social distanced Christmas Celebration take place in St. Peters. To sit



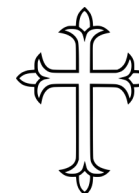
and listen to some of our favourite carols, hear trained Choristers singing and listening to readings from scripture as well as a mix of poems and readings hopefully gave us all some comfort. Added to this the wonderful flower displays that adorned each window give

us all hope for the New Year. Thank you to everyone who took part.

We managed also to have a Christmas Day Service to reflect and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We just managed to squeeze in the Benefice Holy Communion Service before the PM announced another National Lockdown. We were very grateful to the Benefice Team who led the service.

As things stand at the moment there are no church services in St. Peters but the church is open on a Sunday 10 – 2 and Wednesday 2 - 5.30 for private prayer. There is a one way system, track and trace sign, sanitizer and signing in sheet. Do feel able to come and sit and find comfort in this building that has stood the test of time and will be here for us well into the future.



We will continue to use the Creetingham Village WhatsApp to notify of any changes to the Church and any queries please don't hesitate to contact either Alister or Heather. Keep safe everyone x

*Once more the dark is creeping in  
To chase away the light,  
But see the stars, they're coming out  
To watch us through the night.  
Once more our plans have gone awry,  
All we were hoping for,  
But see a new tomorrow dawn,  
Hold fast to dreams once more.  
(Iris Heggelden)*



## CRETINGHAM, MONEWDEN & HOO PARISH COUNCIL

Update: January 2021. Your Councillors met in the middle of January (by Zoom) and this report updates you on what was discussed.

Being the first meeting of the year there were a half-dozen or so statutory documents to approve around Standing Orders, Asset Registers, etc. We then moved to the main business - setting the Parish Precept - i.e. the sum that is added to your Council Tax bill in April to support the work at parish level. I am sure you will be pleased to hear that we voted unanimously for a standstill budget which means NO INCREASE in the Parish element of Council Tax in 2021-22.

Reports were given to our meeting by your County Councillor, Nick Gowrley, and your District Councillor, Maurice Cook. Both reports highlighted the work of our District and County Councils in supporting local businesses during the past and current lockdowns.

The project to install a Speed Indicator Device (SID) at a number of alternative sites in Cretingham was discussed and we noted that the SCC Highways Dept. are currently finalising Health and Safety issues around the installation/re-alignment of the poles required. The same department is also to quote us for the replacement/refurbishment of the finger-post signs at junctions across the three parishes - although whether we will be able to service every sign is very much dependent on finances. We are using our £7,277 Community Infrastructure Fund windfall to finance both the SID and these replacement signs.

Councillors also discussed the signing and way marks for public footpaths - a real boon in these lockdown conditions. Generally, they were felt to be in good order and they do ensure that walkers keep to the recognised paths and don't stray over farmland. However, if you know of missing signs/waymarks. Please let your local Councillor know. We also discussed the permitted use of Monewden Airfield and other planning matters.

The Council meets again on the 9th of March and an agenda and invitation to join the meeting via Zoom will be posted a week in advance on our website: <http://cretinghammonewdenhoo.onesuffolk.net/>

## DALLINGHOO NOTES

### Church Rotas

Date	Service/Readers	Sides people
	<b>ALL SERVICES SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS</b>	

### 2020 POPPY APPEAL

The results of the 2020 Poppy Appeal in Dallinghoo and Debach were:

Dallinghoo: £212.64

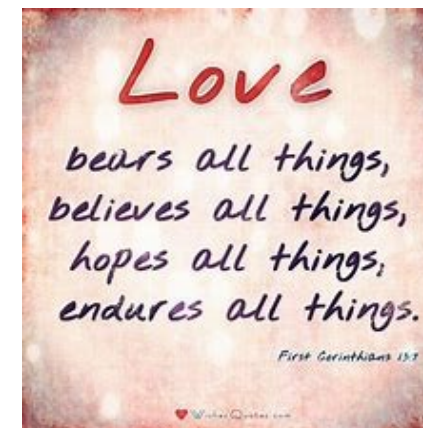
Debach: £28

Covid restrictions meant we were unable to collect house-to-house.

Regards  
Jeremy Quinlan

### WELCOME

A warm welcome to Zoe & Robert Bellfield. We hope they will be very happy in their new house, Valley Barn.



## ***MONNEWDEN NOTES***

### **Monewden Church**

All public worship has been suspended in Monewden Church and the other Churches in the Benefice until the end of February, due to the increased levels of Covid 19. The situation will be reviewed at the end of February. Although public worship has been suspended the Church is OPEN for private prayer and reflection on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9am to 5pm. If you have any questions please call Brian on 01473737285 or David on 01473737298


### **100 Club**

Thank you to David and Lesley for organizing, and to everyone who has supported the 100 club. This has been the only way we have been able to raise funds for Monewden Church Appeal since last March. The Appeal Fund continues to raise money specifically for the fabric of the Church. The current repairs to the masonry and windows will be paid for by the Appeal Fund. This work is now nearing completion.

100 club winners for December were: David Grier £75, Richard Chenery £50, Kay Dorsett £25

100 club winners for January were: Robin Aitchinson £25, Sue Dinwiddy £15, Neville Skeet £10

## ***SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2021***

Church					
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe					
Chars field w. Debach					
Cretin					
Dallin					
Earl Sc					
Hoo					
Monewden					
Lethering-ham					

## READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

	Holy communion		Evening and Morning Prayer	Psalm
Feb 7th	Colossians Ch 1 vs 15-20 John Ch 1 vs 1-14			
Feb 14th	2 Corinthians Ch 4 vs 3-6 Mark Ch 9 vs 2-9	2 Kings Ch 2 vs 1-12 Mark Ch 9 vs 2-9		Psalm 50 vs 1-6
Feb 21st	1 Peter Ch 3 vs 18-end Mark Ch 1 vs 9-15	Genesis 9 vs 8-17 Mark Ch 1 vs 9-15		Psalm 25 vs 1-9
Feb 28th	Romans Ch 4 vs 13-end Mark Ch 8 vs 31-end	Genesis Ch 17 vs 1-7, 15-16 Mark Ch 8 vs 31-end		Psalm 22 vs 23-end
March 7th	1 Corinthians vs 18-25 John Ch 2 vs 13-22			

Although the churches are not open for worship, these are the set readings for February, in case you may like to read them.

## Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera 2021

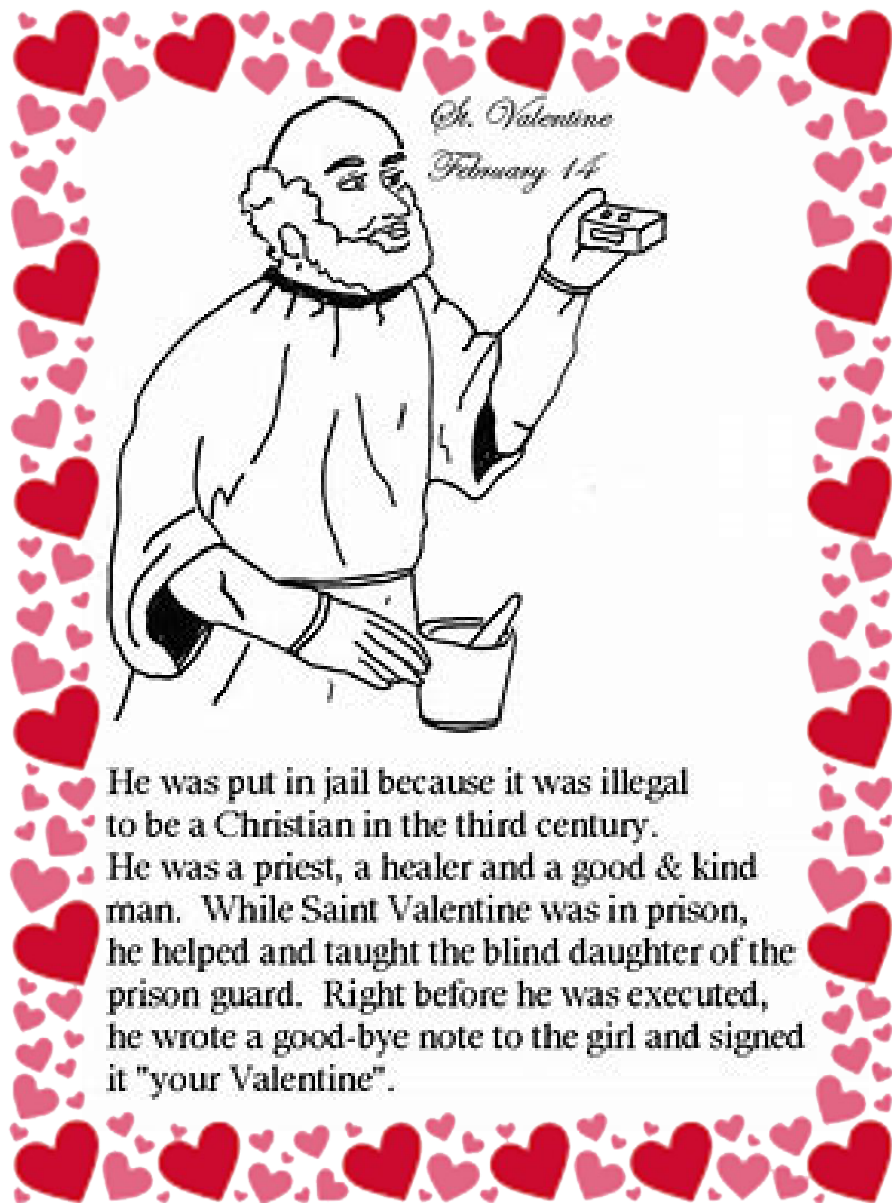
Are you ready to count your saucepans? How many musical instruments are hidden in your attics? In 2021 we're again asking for your support for Kagera. We know that many here are suffering hardship because of the pandemic yet continue to support their communities with love and care. Can we extend that spirit of compassion to our partners in Kagera? This year's theme is 'Supporting key workers in Kagera', thinking in particular of farmers, doctors and priests who all provide vital services to their communities helping and encouraging them to lift themselves out of poverty. There are plenty of fundraising ideas at [www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal). It would be great if you'd join in again! And yes, there will be a new Lent Challenge booklet where as well as counting pans and musical instruments there will be lots to do besides. To get your copy, ask at your local church or email us at [kagera@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:kagera@cofesuffolk.org).

### PRAYER FOR HEALING

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


Kathleen Martin - 01473 737 285  
Pauline Cobley - 01473 737 317  
Margaret Salter - 01473 737 182  
Mary Vellacott - 01728 685423

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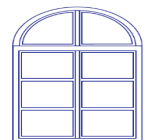
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## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Clerks to Parish Councils

<b>Ashfield</b>	Mrs Sarah Clare E-mail: <a href="mailto:actpc.clerk@gmail.com">actpc.clerk@gmail.com</a> Tel: 01449 781671
<b>Charsfield</b>	Pamela Hembra E-mail: <a href="mailto:charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com">charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com</a> Tel: 01473 737655
<b>Cretingham</b>	Acting Clerk : Caroline Saxby E-mail: <a href="mailto:cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com">cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com</a> Tel:
<b>Dallinghoo</b>	Chris Ling E-mail: <a href="mailto:Dallinghoo.parish@outlook.com">Dallinghoo.parish@outlook.com</a> Tel: 07963305205
<b>Earl Soham</b>	Guy Harvey E-mail: <a href="mailto:espcclerk@gmail.com">espcclerk@gmail.com</a> Tel: 01728 685729
<b>Hoo</b>	Jane Page (see Cretingham above)
<b>Letheringham</b>	David Allan E-mail: <a href="mailto:letheringham@btinternet.com">letheringham@btinternet.com</a> 07411 277784
<b>Monewden</b>	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)
<b>Village Hall/Community Centre Booking Secretaries:</b>	
<b>Ashfield</b>	Geoff Henney Tel: 07507 040041 Email: <a href="mailto:sueandgeoffhenney@hotmail.co.uk">sueandgeoffhenney@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Charsfield</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk">www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk</a> Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk">enquiries@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk</a> Or Tel: 07935 445193
<b>Dallinghoo</b>	Mr Chris Pennington Tel: 01473 737 836
<b>Earl Soham</b>	Lorna Perkins Tel: 01728 684827 Email: <a href="mailto:esvhbookings@gmail.com">esvhbookings@gmail.com</a>
<b>Monewden</b>	Sian Kingston Tel: 07887606717 Email: <a href="mailto:sian@rskingston.com">sian@rskingston.com</a>

Village Organisations			
ASHFIELD	Community Council	Ms Sam Thomas	07985 807683
"	Ladies Group	Mrs Susan Hansen	01728 685 738
CHARSFIELD	CEVC Primary School	Dr Paul Parslow-Williams	01473 737 347
"	WI Secretary	Mrs Rosalin Baley	01473 737171
"	Rec. Ground Com	Mrs Jan Pedgrift	01473 737 701
"	Tennis Club	Mrs Pauline Llewellyn	01473 737 517
"	Flower Show Secretary	Mrs Pip Smith	01473 277166
"	Village Hall	Pam Hembra committee@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk	
CRETINGHAM	100 Club	Mr. Alister Gourlay	01728 685 335
DALLINGHOO	Rec. Ground Com.	Mr. Derek Spall	01473 737 565
"	Carpet Bowls Club	Mr. Cliff Green	01473 737 421
"	Village Hall Com.	Mr. Derek Spall	01473 737 565
EARL SOHAM	FO St. Mary's	Mr. John Stott	01728 861 340
"	Primary School	Mr. Lambillion-Jameson	01728 685 359
"	Neighbourhood Watch	Mrs J. Sheffield Mrs Mary Patterson	01728 685 403 01728 685 362
"	WI Secretary	Mrs Daphne Dale	01728 621 292
"	Village Hall Com.	Lorna McCurrach	01394 388807
"	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
"	Carpet Bowls Club	Chris Pratt	01728 685745
"	Allotment/Gardeners Association	Mrs Mavis Kerridge Mr. John Stark	01728 685 700 01728 684 385
MONEWDEN	Local History Society	Mr. Peter Driver	01728 724 951

## Young Readers Page

