MID-LOES BENEFICE MAGAZINE Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach, Cretingham, Dallinghoo, Earl Soham, Hoo, Letheringham, Monewden

December 2023 - January 2024



Benefice All-Age Toy Service Sunday 3rd December 10am The Parish Church of St. Mary, Monewden All Welcome

WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE

	Who s who in the benefice	
Priest-in-Charge	Revd Gary Best, The Rectory, Earl Soham (Day off Friday) Email: revgarybest@gmail.com	01728 685550 07493 072 695
Curate	Revd Kathleen Martin, Firs Farm, Monewden Email: rev.kay@yahoo.com	01473 737285 07928 799 416
Lay Elders	Mrs. Mary Vellacott, Stretham House, Earl Soham, Miss Amber Pearce-Wright,	01728 685 423
Mag. Editor	Revd Gary Best, E-Mail: midloesmagazine@gmail.com	01728 685550
	ASHFIELD	
Churchwardens — Secretary Treasurer	Robert Grimsey, email: Robert@rwgrimsey.co.uk Robert Grimsey, as above Robert Grimsey, as above	01728 685 203
	CHARSFIELD	
Churchwardens 	Linda Stratton Mike Bamford Revealey Curachaim, The Cottage, The Street, Charafield	01473 737771
Secretary Treasurer	Beverley Gugenheim, The Cottage, The Street, Charsfield Email: bev@gugenheim.net Vacancy	01473 737667
	CRETINGHAM	
Churchwardens "	Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Cretingham Mrs. Heather Runacres, Dove Farm Cotts. Cretingham	01728 685 335 01728 685736
Secretary Treasurer	Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Cretingham	01728 685 335
	DALLINGHOO	
Churchwardens "	Mrs. Charlotte Sullivan, email : charlottesullivan87@yahoo.com	07967743006
Secretary Treasurer	Tina Love, 2 Blacksmiths Cottages, Dallinghoo Ros Bayley, ros.bayley@googlemail.com	01473 737653

Who's Who continues on the inside back cover

The Deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is Sunday 21st January

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

December 2023 - January 2024

From The Rectory...

November has been a month of remembering, where I had the privilege of leading three separate Remembrance Services. Each of these services was important in providing a coming together of family, friends and community in remembering those loved ones who are no longer with us. But our attention now turns to waiting, of spiritual preparation for the coming of the light of Christ into our world, the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is to Advent and Christmas that our attention now turns.

At the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day, and on Christmas Day itself, candles will be lit on Advent Wreaths across the benefice, symbolising those who prepared for the coming of Christ. The candles are lit symbolically remembering the patriarchs (Abraham and David); the prophets, who foretold of the birth of Christ; John the Baptist who proclaimed the coming of Christ; and of course, Mary, the mother of Christ. Finally, a fifth candle is lit on Christmas Day symbolising the birth of Christ, the arrival of the light of Christ into the world.

Our first Advent service takes place at Monewden, and will be a Benefice Toy Service, providing an opportunity for gifts for children can be taken to the service, after which in turn, the gifts will be passed on to The Salvation Army, who will ensure that the gifts are distributed to those children who will not be fortunate to receive any Christmas presents this year.

We will be joined at the service by Major Alan Hill, from The Salvation Army, who will talk about the work undertaken at this time of year, by such an important organisation who serve so many communities, sharing the love of Christ through their actions and not just words. Please join us at this service and be part of our benefice giving to those children who have so little.

The many services across the benefice are listed in this magazine, but, outside of the services, please call in to any of our churches to escape the busyness of life and to reflect on your own personal journey towards Christmas which I hope and pray, is free from the stresses and pressures of consumerism and one of peace where you are able to find time to be with family, friends and neighbours.

At Christmas, all of our churches will welcome you to be part of something special. Christmas is special for us all, so let's celebrate as a community. Let it be a joyous occasion for us all.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas, I wish you a peacefuland blessed time.Love and Blessings, Revd Gary Best

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few hours spare each month to help collect and deliver the donations for FIND? With each of the benefice churches now acting as donation points for FIND, the food and toiletries need to be collected and delivered to the FIND offices in Ipswich - Brazier Wood Road, IP3 0SP. If enough drivers come forward, it may be that you only have to collect and deliver once every few months. If this is something you think you could help with, please contact Revd Gary Best—01728 685 550; revgarybest@gmail.com

PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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

Benefice Choir

The next service where the choir will be present, is being held at: **St. Mary's Church, Monewden Sunday 3rd December — Choir present from 9am** If you would like more information, please contact Revd Gary Best or David Irlande. **Revd Gary Best** - revgarybest@gmail.com; 01728 685 550 David Irlande - davidirlande@gmail.com; 07931 594 325

BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AND LIGHT LUNCH

Thursday 14th December Thursday 11th January from 12noon at Firs Farm, Monewden

A reflective Holy Communion service followed by a light lunch to which all are welcome.

Please let Revd Kathleen know if you are coming in order to help with planning.

b.a.martin@btconnect.com or 01473 737285



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

We need children aged 4 and up to take part as various characters (no acting or speaking required) to create the nativity scene whilst the congregation sing carols to narrate the story of Christ's birth.

The Commitment:

- To attend rehearsal on Sunday 17th @ 10am (approx 1 hour max)
- To come to Earl Soham Church at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve to be ready for the 6 o'clock service to which all are very welcome

Costumes provided

Please let Charlotte know if you would like your child to take part this year. *Charlotte: 01728 684412 <u>charlottepeacher242@msn.com</u>*

Mary Vellacott Mavis Kerridge For St Marys PCC



EARL SOHAM NOTES



Carol Singing in The Vic Thursday, 21st December 7pm.

All Welcome Come and sing your hearts out!

Rota for the Altar and Roll of Honour Flowers					
	and Brasses — St. Mary's				
December	December Mrs Haines				
January	January Mrs Haines				
Any Problems Ring Denise —685234					

EARL SOHAM WI

Is a friendly group with around 50 members, holding interesting, informative, and entertaining meetings normally on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7pm. Our next meeting is on:



Thursday 14th December—Brandeston Village Hall at 7pm Christmas Party—Carol Peters will show us how to make that empty bottle look festive... and Christmas Party Buffet. Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings.

So why not come along and give us a try.

For more information and to contact Earl Soham WI please find us at <u>www.sefwi.org.uk</u> or contact Eleri Whitham - 01728 628614.

The deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is SUNDAY 21st JANUARY

Anything sent after this date will not be included.

E-mail: midloesmagazine@gmail.com

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

ST MARYS EARL SOHAM

Saturday 10th February 2024

7pm for 7.30 pm

Earl Soham Village Hall

Traditional 3-course haggis supper

Piped in by our own 'Highlander'

KEEP THE DATE FREE

Book your tickets by February 5th

RING Mavis 01728 685700 or Irene 01728 685814

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Elizabeth Hospice are looking to recruit a team of warm, caring and empathetic Community Volunteers to provide support to people living in their own homes.

The support provided may include tasks such as collecting and delivering shopping, collecting medication, making a snack or drink, lighthouse work and gardening or visiting to provide carer/loved one respite, reassurance or a cup of tea and a chat.

We have many patients requesting support in their own homes, across various locations in Suffolk but in particular – Saxmundham, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Eye, Felixstowe and Stowmarket areas. Visits can sometimes be up to 4 hours, but usually would be much less.

If you have any questions regarding the role please contact the Volunteer Team on 01473 707939 or email <u>volunteer@stelizabethhospice.org.uk</u>

SUFFOLK PLANT MACHINERY

Your local friendly plant machinery hire company based in Brundish Nr Framlingham with 20 years experience in machinery



hire and Bobcat sales.

We offer a full range of diggers from micro 1-ton machines to gain access through doorways to 6-8 ton machines for larger jobs, dumpers, skid steer loaders, mini telehandlers and specialised attachments for the machines.

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- We can offer self-drive or with experiencedoperators.
- We can offer full delivery and collection service for machines if required.
- No job too small or too big and advice given if needed.

We also have full workshop facilities for repairs and servicing of any machines.

Please call to discuss your requirements on 01379 384977. Email office@suffolkplantmachinery.co.uk



PUBLIC NOTICE

Premises Licence – Variation Application

Name of Applicant: Earl Soham Village Hall Committee Name of Premises: Earl Soham Village Hall Postal Address of Premises: The Street, Earl Soham, IP13 7SF This application may be viewed at: East Suffolk Council East Suffolk House, Riduna Park or Riverside Station Road. Melton 4 Canning Road Woodbridge Lowestoft Suffolk IP12 1RT Suffolk NR33 0EO Proposed Variation: To add on sales of alcohol Monday to Saturday 7:00 to 00:00 and Sunday 10:00 to 22:00. To add films (indoors) Monday to Saturday 7:00 to 00:00 and Sunday 10:00 to 23:00. To extend the existing licenced hours for music, dance, anything similar and indoor sporting events to Monday to Saturday 7:00 to 00:00 and Sunday 10:00 to 23:00. Dates between which representations may be made to the Licensing Authority: Start Date: 18/11/2023 Closing Date 15/12/2023

Representations must be made in writing to the Licensing Team, East Suffolk Council (as the Licensing Authority) at this address, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ, or by e-mail to <u>licensing@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</u>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

Earl Soham Village Hall Dates for your Diary

Fri 1st Dec / Fri 5th Jan Quiz Night - 7:00pm Cash Prizes!

Fri 8th Dec Festive Fun at our Christmas Fair - 6-10pm

Sat 16th Dec Film Night – Oppenheimer - 7:00pm

Sat 20th January Film Night - TBC - 7:00pm

Sunday 21st January 11am - 3pm Café in the Kitchen & Book Club Event

more details in the New Year

More information on the website:

earlsohamvillagehall.org



SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST ANNUAL CYCLE RIDE SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2023

A LOT OF WATER HAS GONE UNDER THE BRIDGE SINCE THEN! EVEN SO I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THREE KEEN CYCLISTS OF EARL SOHAM WHO BETWEEN THEM RAISED £320! 18 WAS THE NUMBER OF VISITING CYCLISTS, SLIGHTLY DOWN ON PREVIOUS YEARS BUT IT REMAINS A PLEASANT DAY OUT AND RAISES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR THE CHURCHES.

OUR SPONSORS ONCE AGAIN WERE SO GENEROUS WHICH MAKES THE WHOLE EFFORT WORTHWHILE. THE LOYAL BAND OF PERSONS WHO MAN THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE DAY ARE MUCH APPRECIATED. THANK YOU ALL!

Mary Patterson



7.00 pm at Framlingham College



GLORY At Christmas time

Tickets: £15, under 18s free, available from Hall Farm Butchers, 25, Market Hill, Framlingham, William Glasse william@glasse.org.uk, choir members, and at the door. reg. charity no. 1076549

Flower and Cleaning Rota 2023 - 2024						
	Altar Flowers Cleaning					
December 2023	Mrs Defoe	Mrs Runacres				
January 2024	January 2024 As per Rota Mr & Mrs Gourlay					

We were blessed with fine weather at our **<u>Remembrance Service</u>** this year when we all gathered round the war memorial at St. Peters. A time, particularly this year, to never forget those that gave their lives. Mr Pinner read the names of those from Cretingham.

We shall remember...

Edward Aldous Eli Durrant Ernest Friend Harry Howard Christopher Taylor

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we shall remember them.



CRETINGHAM NOTES



Carol Singing at the Village Pub Wednesday 13th December

We are again gathering at the **The Cretingham Bell**

(by kind invitation of Paul and Clare) to sing our hearts out, partake of some liquid refreshment and raise money for a local children's charity.

All gather please, in fine voice, at 7pm.



Christmas Day Holy Communion

in St. Peters Church at 9.30am

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come and gather on this very special day.

CHRISTMAS STALL in Church Saturday 16th December 10am – 12noon

See all the fabulous Christmas flowers filling every window, refreshments and coffee/tea to warm you up,

homemade craft & produce stall plus Christmas raffle. Great opportunity to catch up with friends.

Not to be missed and don't be late... as only open for 2 hours!

[This will be our coffee & chat session for December]

We would welcome donations of books, jigsaws, DVDs, cakes, savouries, perhaps you have a surplus of jams/chutneys you have made - can be left inside church or bring on the morning, many thanks - Heather x

COFFEE & CHAT

St. Peters Church, Cretingham 10.30am – 12noon Friday 12th January 2024



OPEN TO EVERYONE from Cretingham and surrounding villages... just bring yourself for a cup of coffee/tea and biscuit... and the heating will be on! We look forward to seeing you there. x

Huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped out during 2023,

it is so appreciated.

It has been great meeting up & talking at our Coffee & Chat mornings (watch

out on noticeboard for next dates) it has been wonderful and we will continue this in 2024.

Wishing everyone a warm & peaceful Christmas and hope you are able to spend time with family and friends. The season of Christmas is upon us when the light of Jesus' birth will shine for each and every one of us. love Heather & Alister (Churchwardens)

The deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is SUNDAY 21st JANUARY

Anything sent after this date will not be included.

E-mail: midloesmagazine@gmail.com

MONEWDEN NOTES

DATE	FLOWERS AND BRASSES	CLEANING	SIDESPERSON	COFFEE
December 3rd	-	-	-	-
December 10th	J. Vonberg	M. Sills	J. Dinwiddy	C. Saxby
December 17th	-	-	-	-
December 24th	C. Saxby	L. Grier	W. Heath	L. Grier
December 31st	F. Watts	-	P. Keeble	W. Heath

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE. Our service this year was conducted by Revd Wendy Gourlay. There was once again a good attendance. Last Post was played by James Dinwiddy and the collection will as usual be donated to the RBL.

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on Saturday, December 16th, from 10am onwards. Coffee, tea and bacon rolls will be served. Come and join us this month for the enhanced December 100 Club prizes.

100 CLUB PRIZES: November 1 £25 F. Watts;2 £15 S. Rose; 3 £10 F. Watts.

CMS BOXES: Will anybody who still has a Church Mission Society collecting box please return it to Lesley Grier as soon as possible.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

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





MONEWDEN PCC wishes everyone a

Happy Christmas and Blessed and Peaceful New Year

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

PCC MEETING

There will be a PCC meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at 7.30pm.

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 10am onwards in the Village Hall. Coffee, tea and breakfast rolls will be served. Come and join us, this monthly event is now very popular. The 100 Club draw prizes will be drawn at this event.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Do you have a few hours spare each month to help collect and deliver the donations for FIND? With each of the benefice churches now acting as donation points for FIND, the food and toiletries need to be collected and delivered to the FIND offices in Ipswich - Brazier Wood Road, IP3 0SP. If enough drivers come forward, it may be that you only have to collect and deliver once every few months.

If this is something you think you could help with, please contact Revd Gary Best—01728 685 550; revgarybest@gmail.com

HOO NOTES

Life On The Deben

With our good friends from Monewden church, we had a very enjoyable screening of "Life On The Deben" at Monewden Village Hall on the evening of 10th November. This was a follow up to our previous joint film night a year ago, when we showed "Akenfield", and proved equally successful. Feedback on the night and subsequently highlighted how much those who attended enjoyed the community feeling and togetherness of the evening. With that in mind, we very much hope that this will become an annual event as it is a great way to keep Hoo church at the heart of the community, and we know those involved with Monewden church feel the same.

Our sincere thanks to all those who helped in the organisation of the event and/or on the evening. Special mention must be made of our projectionist, Tony Hutt, who again gave us great support before and on the night, and Suffolk Libraries, for the kind loan of the projector, screen and related equipment.

The church had a quinquennial inspection by the diocese's architect earlier this year which highlighted a number of repair and maintenance items which the church needs to carry out. We will be commencing the most essential of these shortly. The church does have reserves built up to cover expenditure of this kind, but the PCC do not want to deplete those too much, as maintaining our lovely little church is an ongoing thing, so have decided that Hoo's share of the donations received from the screening of "Life On The Deben" will be put towards the initial repair costs.

Carol Service 24 December 2023 at 3pm

Our next major event is our annual carol service at the church on Christmas Eve at 3pm. Maintaining the tradition established over many years by our former churchwardens Perry and Margaret, this

HOO NOTES

will be a relaxed family friendly service and we look forward to welcoming those who live in Hoo and beyond.

The collection from the service will be donated to the Woodbridge branch of The Salvation Army, to be used to support those in Woodbridge and the surrounding area for whom Christmas is a difficult and challenging time. If there is anyone who would like to help us in our support of this excellent cause, but is unable to attend the carol service, please visit the church and leave a donation in the wall safe.

The New Year

The PCC is planning a further programme of community events for 2024, and one which we know is very popular which we can give a date for next year's diary is the Open Garden at Hoo Hall and accompanying concert in the church. This will be on Sunday 9th June 2024 from 2 to 5pm. If you have been before, we look forward to seeing you again, but please tell your family and friends what a great afternoon it is. *Francis Whitbread*

BENEFICE MAGAZINE EDITOR

The Benefice Magazine is seeking a new Editor to manage the editorial content and layout of this magazine.

The role of the Editor will involve proof-reading the copy and laying out the pages, as well as having 'artistic licence' to keep the magazine exciting and relevant.

A good understanding of Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher, would be an advantage. Please contact:

Revd Gary Best: 01728 685 550

revgarybest@gmail.com

Benefice of Mid-Loes

TOY SERVICE

St. Mary's Church, Monewden, IP13 7DA Sunday 3rd December - 10am

A service for the whole family.

Help prepare the church Christmas Tree and, if you are able, please bring a wrapped or unwrapped new gift for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present this year. All gifts collected will be distributed by The Salvation Army.

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



For further information, please contact: Revd Gary Best 01728 685 550 revgarybest@gmail.com

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES



St. Peter's Church Rotas - December 2023			
Date	Readers	Sides person	
3rd December - 8.30am Holy Communion	Holy Communion St. Mary's Church, Ashfield		
3rd December - 10am Benefice All-Age Service	Benefice All-Age Toy Service St. Mary's Church, Monewden All Welcome!		
10th December	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of service elsewhere in the Benefice		
17th December - 6.30pm Carol Service	Joint Christmas Being held at The All Welce	Baptist Chapel	
24th December - 9pm Christmas Mass	Pauline Linda		
Christmas Day	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of services elsewhere in the Benefice		
31st December - 10am Morning Prayer	Gill Gill Gill		

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES

St. Peter's Flower Rota - December 2023					
December 2ndDecember 9thDecember 16thDec 2				December 30th	
Margaret Salter	Margaret Salter	Christmas Everyone	Christmas Everyone	Bev Gugenheim	

Christmas lunch

Do you live in Charsfield? Are you aged 60 or over?

If the answer to both these questions is YES –

You are invited to a **Seniors Christmas Lunch** on Saturday 9th December at 12noon in Charsfield Village Hall.

£8 per person for a delicious Christmas meal and entertainment.

Grateful thanks to **'Communities Together, East Anglia'** who have sponsored the hall hire.

To register an interest in attending please e-mail 'seniors@potsford.com' or telephone 07887 440404 (e-mail preferred). You will then be contacted with further details.



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- Forest school and swimming lessons
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CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES



Christmas Mass

Sunday 24th December

9pm

St. Peter's Church,

Charsfield

All welcome!

St. Peter's Church Flower Rota - January 2024					
January 6th January 13th January 20th January 27th					
Bev Gugenheim	Joyce Whitley	Joyce Whitley	Maureen Arbon		

St. Peter's Church Rotas - January 2024				
Date	Readers Sides person			
7th January - 10am Benefice Holy Communion	Benefice Holy Communion Charsfield All are Welcome!			
14th January	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of servi elsewhere in the Benefice			
21st January - 6.30pm Evening Prayer	Roger Antony			
28th January - 10am Holy Communion	Stephanie Linda			



Charsfield Baptist Coffee Pot,

held alternate Tuesdays during December (5th and 19th) **10.30am - 12noon** in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome

Sunday Services at 11am every Sunday.

Morning prayer times continue in the Chapel Tuesday -Friday, but only from 10am-10.30am.

The Village Carol Service will be held in The Chapel on Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm. All are Welcome!

A message from Charsfield Parish Council for the New Year

The parish council have three new initiatives planned early in 2024.

ROAD SAFETY IN THE VILLAGE What measures will have the greatest road safety benefit?

ENERGY SAVING – A THERMAL IMAGING EXERCISE We have a thermal camera on loan from **TUESDAY 23rd JANUARY to MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY** Would you like your home assessed for heat efficiency?

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

Would you<u>use</u> a bus service to and from Wickham Market At the time of going to press initial discussions are planned at our meeting on 20th November but this is advanced warning that all three will need an input from your household.

Keep an eye out for announcements on the village website (<u>www.charsfield.org.uk</u>),village noticeboard and village email list.

Charsfield Parish Council

Debach Crib Service 2023

Friday 15th December at 5.30pm around the font

The service part will last about 30 minutes Do bring a torch

Hot fruit punch (non-alcoholic)/ squash and mince pies (or similar) will be served after the service We have a set of figures made by children (some updated this year) that we can use; but do feel free to bring along your own figure (human, animal or heavenly!) to be added to the village stable scene at the appropriate time. I look forward to seeing you there. Julie Taplin.

	December 3rd Advent Sunday	December 10th Advent 2	December 15th	December 17th Advent 3	December 19th
Church	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple
Ashfield	8.30am Holy Communion KM	6.30pm Evening Prayer VB	x	x	7pm Carol Service GB
Charsfield		x	x	6.30pm Carol Service at the Baptist Chapel	x
Cretingham		10am Morning Prayer APW	x	10am Holy Communion GB	х
Dallinghoo		6.30pm Holy Communion WG	x	10am All-Age Service WG	x
Earl Soham		10am Morning Prayer KM	x	6.30pm Carol Service GB	х
Ноо		8.30am Holy Communion GB	x	x	x
Letheringham		x	x	x	х
Monewden	10am Benefice Toy Service GB	10am Holy Communion GB	6.30pm Carol Service GB	x	х

Key to Service Leader: GB = Revd Gary Best; KM = Revd Kathleen Martin;

WG = Revd Wendy Gourlay; APW = Amber Pearce Williams, Lay Elder;

CW = Churchwarden; VB = Veda Berriman, Reader.

Bible Readings for December 2023

Date	Readings	Psalm
December 3rd	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13	43
	Matthew 24: 1-14	
December 10th	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end	70
	Matthew 25: 1-13	
December 17th	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11	90: 1-8
	Matthew 25: 14-30	

Services for December 2023

	December 22nd	December 23rd	December 24th	December 25th	Deember 31st
Church	Purple	Purple	Advent 4 Christmas Eve Purple	Christmas Day White	Christmas 1 White
Ashfield	x	x	x		x
Charsfield	x	x	9pm Christmas Holy Communion KM		10am Morning Prayer KM
Cretingham	6.30pm Carol Service WG	x	x	9.30am Holy Communion GB	10am Holy Communion GB
Dallinghoo	x	3.30pm Carol Service GB	x		10am Morning Prayer WG
Earl Soham	x	x	6pm Crib Service GB 11.30pm Midnight Mass GB	10am All-Age Worship MV	x
Ноо	x	x	3pm Carol Service KM	x	x
Letheringham	x	6.30pm Carol Service GB	x	x	х
Monewden	x	x	x	10am Holy Communion KM	x

Bible Readings for December 2023

Date	Readings	Psalm	
December 24th	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13	43	
	Matthew 24: 1-14		
Christmas Day	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end	70	
	Matthew 25: 1-13		
December 31st	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11	90: 1-8	
	Matthew 25: 14-30		

Services for January 2024

	January 7th	January 14th	January 21st	January 28th
Church	Epiphany 1	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4
church	Baptism of Christ			Presentation of Christ
	White	White	White	White
Ashfield		4pm Evening Prayer VB	8.30am Holy Communion KM	x
Charsfield	10am Benefice Holy Communion KM + WG	x	6.30pm Evening Prayer GB	10am Holy Communion WG
Cretingham		10am Morning Prayer KM	10am Holy Communion GB	x
Dallinghoo		4pm Holy Communion KM	10am All-Age Worship APW	x
Earl Soham		10am All-Age Worship WG	10am Holy Communion KM	10am Morning Prayer GB
Ноо		8.30am Holy Communion GB	x	8.30am Morning Prayer KM
Letheringham		x	x	x
Monewden		10am Holy Communion GB	x	10am All-Age Worship KM

Key to Service Leader: GB = Revd Gary Best; KM = Revd Kathleen Martin;

WG = Revd Wendy Gourlay; APW = Amber Pearce Williams, Lay Elder;

CW = Churchwarden; VB = Veda Berriman, Reader.

Benefice Choir

The choir will be present, at the January 2024 Benefice Service which is being held at:

St. Peter's Church, Charsfield

Sunday 7th January — Choir present from 9am

If you would like more information, please contact

David Irlande - davidirlande@gmail.com; 07931 594 325

Date	Readings	Psalm	
January 7th	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13	43	
	Matthew 24: 1-14		
January 14th	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end	70	
	Matthew 25: 1-13		
January 21st	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11	90: 1-8	
	Matthew 25: 14-30		
January 28th			

Bible Readings for January 2024



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."



<u>Charsfield and Dallinghoo Women's</u> Institute

SPIRING WOMEN We invite you to join us or visit us and enjoy interesting speakers, friendly company

and excellent catering! Our meetings are held at either Dallinghoo village hall (in the summer) or Charsfield village hall (in the winter) on the second Monday of the month at 7.45pm. Guests and new members are always welcome - for more information contact the President, Maureen Arbon at **thearbons@btinternet.com** or 01473 737346 We would love to have some new members join us. Give us a try, come along as a guest and see what we're like!



Services at St. Mary's, Dallinghoo, for December 10th December 6.30pm - Holy Communion 17th December 10am - All-Age Service 23rd December 3.30pm - Carol Service 31st December 10am - Morning Prayer

2023 Poppy Appeal

The results of the 2023 Poppy Appeal were: Dallinghoo: £814.27 Debach: £153.53 As 'scan to donate' was also offered, there should be a little more to come. These figures include 'gift aid'. Regards, Jeremy Quinlan.

Belated Note

I would like to thank Jeremy and all his helpers who organised the harvest supper in Dallinghoo. I really appreciated and enjoyed it. Thank you, Betty Cole.

Dallinghoo Carol Service is on December 23rd at 3.30pm. If you play an instrument or sing, and would like to join in, please contact Annabel Brown on annybrown@hotmail.co.uk - 07753 142794.



DALLINGHOO NOTES



'We would also be grateful to any volunteers who would be able to lend a few hours helping on the day'





Just a few weeks ago, much of our area experienced an extreme weather event that caused major flooding. Well over 500 homes and businesses in the communities in and around Framlingham, Debenham, Wickham Market, and Needham Market were directly impacted.

On a personal note, I was forced to abandon my car, to carry family members to safety through the rising flood waters, to spend the night in temporary accommodation, and my office in Framlingham was waist deep in water. I know that many others were much worse affected.

During the floods, and in the immediate aftermath, we saw the very best of Suffolk, as farmers and other members of our communities came together to help out those in need. Tractor drivers helped to rescue schoolchildren, and thanks to community volunteers, emergency hubs were set up in local towns and villages to support those stranded in the floods.

My immediate priority once the floods began to subside, has been to visit as many homes and businesses as I could, to personally offer help and support. In Parliament, I raised the challenges facing flood impacted homes and businesses at Prime Minister's Questions. I am pleased that in the difficult circumstances facing so many in our area, that my intervention has helped to secure a special Government flood support package for local homes and businesses impacted by the flooding which can be accessed though our local councils.

Flooded households in Suffolk are entitled to claim Government support, with an immediate £500 for flooded homes, and another

£5000 available to homeowners to rebuild and recover in the longer term. Flood impacted businesses are entitled to claim an immediate £2500 in financial support.

As we continue to recover and rebuild from the floods, there may still be families and businesses in difficulty. Should anyone need to contact me or my team for support and assistance or with help making a claim or about anything else you feel we can help with please email <u>Daniel.Poulter.mp@parliament.uk</u> or call 02072197038.

As we reflect on what has happened, I do not believe that any amount of planning would have made a significant difference to the flooding that resulted from the extreme weather which combined with a high tide in Suffolk's tidal rivers to cause maximum destruction. In some places, flood mitigation measures were already in place to manage the risk of flooding but were overwhelmed.

Nonetheless, it will now be important for everyone, and in particular, our local council planners to look at what can be done to prepare better for extreme weather events the future. Certainly, the rewilding policies, which have resulted in the reduced clearance of our roadside drains and gullies, have clearly led to increased flooding at times of sudden and unpredictable rainfall and will need to be reassessed.

Finally, as we enjoy ourselves over the festive period, a thank you to our emergency services who work all year round to look after us, and to keep us safe. As usual, I shall be working during the busy Christmas and New Year period as a doctor in the NHS and shall be spending a night shift with our Suffolk Police. I wish you, your family and your friends a very Happy Christmas and a Happy 2024.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Ashfield Parish Council takes place in the village hall on Monday 11th December. As well as the regular agenda items time will be allocated in a public forum to discuss the aftermath of the recent flooding event. If you have specific issues relative to the flooding that you would like to be discussed please can you let our Clerk Sarah [actpc.clerk@gmail.com] know ahead of the meeting so that we can hopefully have answers ready for you. RG.

FLOODING UPDATE

A month on from Storm Babet life for most people is getting back to normal. We mustn't forget those who are still drying out their homes or face several months in alternative accommodation whilst their homes are repaired. With the wetter weather continuing it is important that we all make sure our drains/gutters are working effectively. Even a few twigs/leaves can soon cause a blockage leading to flooding where you would not normally expect it, a few minutes check round before it rains can save much time and effort compared to having to clear up after flooding.

If you have open ditches on your premises it is very important to ensure these are cleared of debris remembering that they will very likely carry water from upstream and that an obstruction could very easily cause flooding to other properties nearby.

I continue to work with landowners where necessary to get ditches blocked before and as the result of the floods cleaned out so that they can flow properly! RG.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

I have a limited number of good quality Christmas Cards for sale to raise money for Ashfield Church. The cards are A5 sized and come complete with an envelope. There are two styles to choose from
ASHFIELD NOTES

and they come in packs of ten of one style. The price of £3.00 per pack of ten represents exceptionally good value and raises money for your parish church too! Please let me know if you are interested and I will drop in with some.

THANK YOU

I am pleased to be able to report that the recent evening with Peter and Kerry was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who came along. Thanks to everyone for their generosity which resulted in a profit of £423.29. The proceeds of this event will go towards paying for electrical upgrades required by our insurers, this work is to be completed imminently.

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S IN DECEMBER

In addition to our regular services, this month we are hosting a Holy Communion Service at 8.30am on Sunday 3rd and our Carol Service will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 19th, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church. We look forward to seeing you at these or any of our services. Full details of Christmas Services across the Mid Loes Benefice can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

It just remains for me to wish everyone of you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. *Robert Grimsey*



LETHERINGHAM NOTES

Remembrance Saturday

A joint service of Remembrance with Hoo was held on Saturday 11th November, at St.Mary's Letheringham. Maurice Finch read the Roll of Honour for the twenty men from Letheringham who fell in the Great War and Trevor Branton read the names from Hoo. Twenty ceramic poppies were placed on Letheringham Green, by the village sign.

Christmas Candlelit Service - Saturday 23rd December - 6.30pm

There will be a Candlelit Service at 6.30pm at St Mary's Letheringham and we are delighted to announce that the 'Letheringham Youth Choir' will be joining us. The service will be officiated by Reverend Gary Best. Following the service all are invited to stay for mulled wine and mince pies. We hope to see you there.

The deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is SUNDAY 21st JANUARY

Anything sent after this date will not be included.

E-mail: midloesmagazine@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few hours spare each month to help collect and deliver the donations for FIND? With each of the benefice churches now acting as donation points for FIND, the food and toiletries need to be collected and delivered to the FIND offices in Ipswich - Brazier Wood Road, IP3 0SP. If enough drivers come forward, it may be that you only have to collect and deliver once every few months.

If this is something you think you could help with, please contact Revd Gary Best—01728 685 550; revgarybest@gmail.com

Priory Church of St Mary's Letheringham

Candlelit Carol Service Saturday 23rd December 6.30pm

Mulled wine and mince pies to be served after the service





Food Donations across the Benefice

The benefice churches are delighted to be supporting FIND (Families in Need) a local charity based in Ipswich supporting people across the local villages and towns.

For over 30 years, Families in Need (FIND) Ipswich, has offered a lifeline to people in Ipswich and the surrounding areas who are experiencing poverty and despair.

FIND provides free food parcels and personal care items to help people get through a crisis, as well as furniture, bedding and other household items where the person or family has none.

An army of over 80 volunteers regularly give their time freely to check and sort the donated food, collect items from local stores, make up the food parcels and deliver them.

It's a six-day a week operation.

The demand for food parcels has risen year on year and FIND now distributes an average of 120-150 parcels every week and even more at Christmas - more than 7,000 every year.

Going Forward

Each church within the benefice has now become a donation point where there are boxes in the church porches in which donations can be left. The donations will then be collected on a regular basis and taken to the offices of FIND. Currently, the food requirements are as follows:

> Long grain rice - Long-life whole milk Toiletries for men, women and children Tinned vegetables, meat, fruit/desserts Coffee - Sugar - Jam - Soup Pet food (dog, cat, fish, rabbit/guinea pig)

If you are able to donate, thank you.

BENEFICE MAGAZINE EDITOR

The Benefice Magazine is seeking a new Editor to manage the editorial content and layout of this magazine.

The role of the Editor will involve proof-reading the copy and laying out the pages, as well as having 'artistic licence' to keep the magazine exciting and relevant.

A good understanding of Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher, would be an advantage. Please contact:

Revd Gary Best: 01728 685 550

revgarybest@gmail.com

The deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is SUNDAY 21st JANUARY

Anything sent after this date will not be included. E-mail: midloesmagazine@gmail.com

BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION AND LIGHT LUNCH

Thursday 14th December Thursday 11th January from 12noon at Firs Farm, Monewden

A reflective Holy Communion service followed by a light lunch to which all are welcome.

Please let Revd Kathleen know if you are coming in order to help with planning.

b.a.martin@btconnect.com or 01473 737285

OUR READERS ARE PLEASED TO HAVE LOCAL BUSINESSESS TO CONTACT WHEN THEY NEED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

If you would like to advertise in this magazine's **Directory of Local Businesses** please contact Mrs. Caroline Saxby, our advertising Manager who will be pleased to give you full details. Get in touch with her by phoning 01473 277146 or e-mailing: saxbies@hotmail.com

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Clerks to Parish Councils		
Ashfield	Mrs Sarah Clare E-mail: actpc.clerk@gmail.com Tel: 01449 781671	
Charsfield	Pamela Hembra E-mail: charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel: 01473 737655	
Cretingham	Acting Clerk : Caroline Saxby E-mail: cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel:	
Dallinghoo	Chris Ling E-mail: Dallinghoo.parish@outlook.com Tel: 07963305205	
Earl Soham	Guy Harvey E-mail: espcclerk@gmail.com Tel: 01728 685729	
Ноо	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)	
Letheringham	E-mail: letheringham@btinternet.com	
Monewden	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)	
Village Ha	all/Community Centre Booking Secretaries:	
Ashfield	Geoff Henney Tel: 07507 040041 Email: sueandgeoffhenney@hotmail.co.uk	
Charsfield	Website: www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk Email: enquiries@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk Or <i>Tel:</i> 07935 445193	
Dallinghoo	Mr Chris Pennington Tel: 01473 737 836	
Earl Soham	Village Hall Committee Tel: 07961 606647 Email: esvhbookings@gmail.com Website: earlsohamvillagehall.org	
Monewden	Sian Kingston Tel: 07887606717 Email: sian@rskingston.com	

Village Organisations				
ASHFIELD	Community Council	Ms Sam Thomas	07985 807683	
u	Ladies Group	Mrs Susan Hansen	01728 685 738	
CHARSFIELD	CEVC Primary School	Mr Mark Taylor	01473 737 347	
u	WI Secretary	Mrs Rosalin Baley	01473 737171	
u	Rec. Ground Com	Gerry Smith	01473 277166	
u	Tennis Club	charsfieldrgtennis@yahoo.com		
u	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	
u	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	
u	Primary School	Mrs Jen Carlyle	01728 685 359	
u				
u	WI Secretary	Mrs Daphne Dale	01728 621 292	
u	Village Hall Secretary	Mrs Susie Starke	01728 684 385	
"	100 Club	Christopher Pratt	01728 685 745	
u	Tennis Club	Mrs Mary Patterson	01728 685 362	
u	Bowls Club	Martin Dorey	01728 684880	
u	Scouts/Cubs/Beavers	Mrs J. Lovett	01728 723 712	
u	Carpet Bowls Club	Chris Pratt	01728 685745	
	Allotment/Gardeners Association	Mrs Susie Starke Mrs Janice Meakin	01728 684385 07921 263632	



WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE (Continued from inside front cover)

EARL SOHAM

Churchwardens	Dr. John Elmore, Hill Farm, Earl Soham	01728 685 814
Secretary Treasurer	Mrs. Mavis Kerridge, The Malt House, Earl Soham Christopher Pratt, Waters Edge, Low Road, E. Soham	 01728 685 700 01728 685 745
	НОО	
Churchwardens	Vacancy	

SecretaryMr.Trevor Branton, The Poplars, Pound Hill, Dallinghoo01473 737 246TreasurerMr Francis Whitbread, Archers Keep, Butts Lane,
Debenham. Email fwhitbread57@gmail.com07788 563827

"

LETHERINGHAM

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

MONEWDEN

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

CHARSFIELD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Pastor	John Green, The Manse, The Street, Charsfield	01473 737861
Secretary/	Mary Rowe, 15 Broad Road, Wickham Market	01728 582243
Treasurer		
Deacon	Philip Read, 2, Owners Cottages, Hall Road, Charsfield	01473 737372

In order to keep this information up to date please inform the Editor of changes as they occur. midloesmagazine@gmail.com

The Deadline for contributions to the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is Sunday 21st January Benefice of Mid-Loes

TOY SERVICE

St. Mary's Church, Monewden, IP13 7DA Sunday 3rd December - 10am

A service for the whole family. Help prepare the church Christmas Tree and, if you are able, please bring a wrapped or unwrapped new gift for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present this year. All gifts collected will be distributed by The Salvation Army.

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



For further information, please contact: Revd Gary Best 01728 685 550 revgarybest@gmail.com