

MID-LOES BENEFICE MAGAZINE

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

September 2025



Benefice Holy Communion

Earl Soham - 10am

Sunday 7th September

All Welcome

WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE

| | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Rector | Revd Gary Best, The Rectory, Earl Soham (Day off Friday) Email: midloesoffice@gmail.com | 01728 685550 07493 072 695 |
| Assistant Priest | 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 | Robert Grimsey email: robertgrimseyactpc@gmail.com | 01728 685 203 |
| Secretary | Robert Grimsey, as above | |
| Treasurer | Robert Grimsey, as above | |

CHARSFIELD

| | | |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|
| Churchwardens | Linda Stratton email: linda.e.stratton@gmail.com Mike Bamford | 07760 220970 07899 696606 |
| Secretary | Beverley Gugenheim, The Cottage, The Street, Charsfield email: bev@gugenheim.net | |
| Treasurer | Garry Stratton email: g.d.stratton@outlook.com | |

CRETINGHAM

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Churchwardens | Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Cretingham Jonathan Lettin, Moat Farm, Cretingham | 01728 685 335 07896 251 569 |
| Treasurer | Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Cretingham | 07799 588 106 |

DALLINGHOO

| | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| Churchwardens | Mrs. Charlotte Sullivan email : charlottesullivan87@yahoo.com | 07967 743006 |
| Secretary | Tina Love, 2 Blacksmiths Cottages, Dallinghoo | 01473 737653 |
| Treasurer | Ros Bayley, ros.bayley@googlemail.com | |

Who's Who continues on the inside back cover

The Deadline for contributions panel
OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE is
Sunday 21st September

MID LOES BENEFICE

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

From The Rectory...

The past few months have been a particularly challenging time for myself and my family, which has caused a great deal of distress for many, including the wider family and close friends, a time of real hurt and pain, a time that sadly took its toll on myself resulting in some time off 'front-line ministry', for which I am indebted to the Ministry Team and many across the benefice in ensuring that it has been 'business as usual' across the benefice churches and communities.

I have used this time as a time of reflection, of prayer, and of healing. A time that has allowed me to STOP; to be there for my family; and to adjust aspects of my life that I had neglected because I had allowed busyness to take over from an established rhythm of life that existed before, a rhythm that I enjoyed as it brought routine and structure, which have always been an important aspect of my life, but areas of my life that I had neglected. I have spent much time reading and praying and have found real inspiration through the books of the Old Testament, particularly through the Psalms and Isaiah. I came across one reflection based on Isaiah 41:10 that inspired me, and a reflection that I have used as a prayer, gently reminding me that through the darkest times, I am not alone. Through my faith, there is **HOPE**; there is **PEACE**; and there is **LOVE**.

I share it with you because it could be a reflection or a prayer for each one of us to use, especially during the darker times that might descend upon us.

Do not be afraid, I am with you right now, right here in this very moment.

Even in the silence, even in the heartbreak, even in the waiting, you are never alone.

I see the tears you have cried when no one was watching, I see the strength it took for you to keep going, and I want you to know that I am proud of you.

Don't be discouraged. I will strengthen you when your strength is gone, I will help you when you hope feels like it's fading. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand... not just to keep you standing, but to lift you higher.

You are not forgotten, you are not invisible, you are mine.

When the world feels too heavy and your heart too broken, lean on me, let my love heal the wounds you have hidden, let my presence carry you when you can't take another step.

I am the one who holds you when life feels too much, the one who walks beside you in every valley, and the one who will never leave your side... not for a second.

So, wipe your tears, take a deep breath, you will make it through this. Not because you are strong, but because I am.

Amen.

Whatever situation we might find ourselves in life, good times and bad, never underestimate the power of prayer. I think it is fair to say that most of our prayers are asking for something, for light to be found through dark times; for healing of a friend or loved one; but never forget to also pray to give thanks for all that we have. For most of us, we are blessed with the good lives that we have and for that, we give thanks.

Your benefice churches all offer Prayer Boxes for your prayers to be added which will be shared with those worshipping on a Sunday, allowing the community to pray for you or with you. We also have a dedicated email address for prayers to be submitted, midloesprayer@gmail.com, as well as a Prayer Team who pray daily for those who have requested prayers.

For me personally, I pray daily for the communities in which I serve; that each person may know that they are never alone; that each person is important; that each person may know that they are loved.

Love, and Blessings, Revd Gary

Prayer Requests

**Please use the
Prayer Boxes
found in all the
benefice churches
or email
midloesprayer@gmail.com**



BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION & LIGHT LUNCH

Thursday 11th September 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

Are you caring for someone with memory loss and/or dementia?

Then we are here to help you.

We provide a carers' café, post-diagnosis support,
information, advice, peer support, songs for sharing,
transport and much more.

Carers' club and info café on 9th and 23rd September,
2-4pm in Dove Cottage, 39 High Street,
Debenham IP14 6QN (free!)

Just come along, relax and find a listening ear.
(Your loved one will also be most welcome)

Further information: The-debenham-project.org.uk

Contributions to the Magazine

Please note that any contributions to the magazine need to be sent to the
following e-mail address: **midloesmagazine@gmail.com**

ASHFIELD NOTES

CONCERT - THANK YOU

On the 9th August we hosted a concert by Ruth and Des Hart of 'lively folk music from England and beyond' played on a variety of instruments. I am sure everyone present found this entertaining and particularly hearing the narrative about the people behind the tunes! The evening concluded with light refreshments. A profit of £330 was raised for church funds. Thank you so much to Ruth and Des and everyone who came along.



CHURCHYARD - BEECH TREE

Some of you may be aware that there is a large beech tree in Ashfield Churchyard planted to mark the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. In recent years this tree has started to shed branches [an indication of stress] probably due to wet/dry seasons we have been having. A further quite large bough fell during the passing of Storm Floris recently leaving the tree somewhat unbalanced. After taking advice from an independent tree surgeon and in the interests of public safety we have reluctantly taken the decision to have the tree removed before it causes any damage to the church or neighbouring property.



We are expecting this work to be undertaken during September. It will involve the deployment of a cherry picker or similar at considerable expense as it isn't safe to climb the tree. It will be brought down in small sections, the timber and associated chippings will be left in the churchyard for the time being.

If you have any queries about this please contact me.

SHCT - CYCLE RIDE, 13th SEPTEMBER

Ashfield Church will as always be open to welcome cyclists between 9am and 5pm.

If you would like to ride for us or can spare an hour or two to sit in the church please contact Jane Davidson at Ashfield Hall. Thank you.



Robert Grimsey

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES



CHARSFIELD FLOWER PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

Charfield Flower show had another successful year with 27 adults and 42 children entering the classes. There were 252 adult entries and 46 children's entries this year. The flower classes were well represented as were the domestic (especially the lemon drizzle cake and hard-boiled egg classes) and photography classes. Unfortunately, the weather meant that entries in the home-grown vegetable classes were lower than usual.

Lots of visitors joined in the afternoon to look at the entries and enjoy tea and cake, the prize giving and take part in the raffle.

A big thankyou to the Charsfield Flower Show committee who work hard all year to make this event a success, the stewards and judges and to all the people who helped on the day.

The Charsfield Flower Show AGM will take place in the Committee Room at Charsfield Village Hall on Friday 21st November at 6pm.

Dates for your Diary:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Next Charsfield Flower Produce and Craft Show | Sat 25 th July 2026 |
| Entries evening | Tues 21 st July 2026 |



CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES continued

CHARSFIELD HARVEST SERVICE

Charsfield Harvest Service this year will be a Communion Service at 10am on Sunday 28th September. We will be supporting the FIND foodbank in Ipswich so if anyone would like to make any donations could they be of non-perishable food items which will be given to the foodbank.



**All welcome at
Charsfield Village Hall!**

**Table
Tennis**

**Pop Up
Bar**

**Contactless
Payment**

**Friday 5th and 19th September
7pm – 10pm**



ST. PETER'S CHURCH CHARSFIELD SEPTEMBER CLEANING ROTA 2025

13 September

Margaret & Stephanie

27 September

Lucy

**OCTOBER
BENEFICE SERVICE**

**Sunday 5th October at 10am
Charsfield**

NEWS FROM CHARSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pupils in our younger class took an exciting school trip to Southwold Lighthouse. We discovered all about how the lighthouse works and why it is so important for keeping ships safe at sea. After our visit, we enjoyed a tasty treat of chips on the beach — a perfect way to end our day.

As well as a trip to Southwold, pupils were lucky enough to have a special visit from a classic MG car as part of their history topic comparing life 100 years ago to life today. The children loved seeing the vintage vehicle up close and imagining what life was like back then. It really helped bring our learning to life.

In our history lessons in KS 2, pupils have learned about rationing and what it was like to be an evacuee in the war. We were also delighted to welcome Marion into school to talk to the children about her experiences at Charfields when she was a pupil here back in 1942!

As part of their DT project the children also did a Make Do and Mend.

The creativity was amazing, and the children came up with lots of different ideas of what to do with their clothing. There are some budding designers in our school!

On Friday 18th July, we held our annual camp at school for the KS2 children. Unfortunately, with the weather deciding this would be the weekend it was going to turn stormy, we decided to have our camp in the school hall - rain was not going to stop play. After setting up our beds in the hall, we proceeded to have a water fight, a nice relief after a sticky day. Whilst the children dried off and chilled out, the BBQ got under way, followed by some more chill time and 's'mores' around the fire pit. As the night drew in a bit of nighttime hide and seek commenced, followed by hot chocolate, getting ready for bed, watching a film and finally sleep - yes some sleep was had! The camp rounded off with tidying up the bedding and packing ready for home, followed by breakfast - bacon rolls, toast etc. A good time was had by all and for those children who have never had a night away from home, you should be very proud of yourselves.



CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES continued

Our KS 2 pupils put on a performance of Shakespeare Rocks at the beginning of July and they did a brilliant job of singing and acting. Some of the audience members couldn't believe that some of the children were only in year 3!

We have been delighted to welcome Little City into our school for our pupils in Reception and Year 1 as well as parents and toddlers from the local community. We are holding further sessions (Free to attend) on Friday 3rd October and Tuesday 18th November (10:45 - 11:45am) - all are welcome. This is also an opportunity for parents who are looking for Reception places for September 2026 to have a look around our wonderful school. If you are interested in attending one or both of these sessions, please book your place with the school office.

This is just a fraction of what we do at our school! For more information please follow our Instagram and Facebook pages. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer.



Mrs Amie Reeve
Head of School



Charsfield C of E Primary School

Aiming high, valuing individuals, celebrating success.



- Small class sizes
- Forest school and swimming lessons
- Affordable wraparound care 8am-5pm
- Close to Wickham Market, Framlingham & Woodbridge
- Rated 'Good' by Ofsted, 2023
- Pre-school coming soon
- High adult to pupil ratio
- Family feel and supportive staff
- Inclusive, diverse curriculum

Come and see what a small school can do for your child.

Church Road, Charsfield, Woodbridge IP13 7QB, office@charsfieldprimary.org.uk, 01473 737347



**Cream Teas at
Charsfield Church
3-5pm**

**Sunday
21 September**

Proceeds to Church Funds

CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING RE DEBEN SOLAR FARM AT LETHERINGHAM

Planning application made, public response by 5 September 2025

A parish council meeting took place on Monday 11 August, well attended by 30 residents and members of the public. Large print plans were inspected followed by a wide ranging debate. The near unanimous public show of hands subsequently led to a Parish Council vote to object to the planning application. A formal response demonstrating the application's contravention of the East Suffolk Council's own Local Plan is being created by the parish council for submission to ESC shortly.

The industrial level scale of this application over a 40yr term is of immense concern to people across a very wide area. This concern is further enhanced by other ground based solar projects already mooted and also local to us all. Beautiful rural Suffolk views we take for granted will be destroyed for a generation. In Letheringham this application is for an estimated 125,000 - 145,000 panels mounted up to 3m high on around 200 acres of quality agricultural land on two sites each surrounded by 2.48m metal deer/security fencing. Access for many 100s of HGVs plus other vehicles over the 12m construction in 2029 will be via the communities and schools of Easton, Letheringham and Charsfield all of which have narrow single track lanes.

To research this and make your own decision these links may be helpful:

riverdebensolar.co.uk - stopdebensolar.co.uk

You can register your view on this before 5 September by writing to ESC or through their planning website:

<https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

then search on DC/25/2733/FUL

If you would like a short laypersons guide on how to make an online planning comment to ESC please contact the Charsfield Parish Clerk, contact details are at the back of this magazine.

Simon Rixon, Chair - Charsfield Parish Council

If you are able to make a one-off donation or set up a regular giving scheme to the church, please scan the QR code to access St. Peter's Church Giving Page.





VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 11th October

Start 7.00-7:30pm

Charsfield Village Hall

Hot Meal - Bar - Raffle

Please email linda.e.stratton@gmail.com
to reserve a place and for any dietary requirements

Donations to Charsfield Church Funds

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!



FAT BAND

**are back with
Polly Gibbons**

Support Band 'Black Coffee' from Cambridge

**Charsfield Village Hall
Saturday 22nd November**

**An evening of Jazz, Soul, Rock and Blues
In aid of The Brain Tumour Charity**

Doors Open 7pm, with Bar (card payment only)

More details to follow.....



HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 4th October 2025

in Brandeston Village Hall starting at 7 pm.

£12 Adults / £5 Children

Please inform us of any dietary requirements.

Contact either Alister (01728 685335

email tubric.cottage@gmail.com or Heather

email: heather.runacres@hotmail.co.uk

to let us know you are coming.

*The Tuckwell Cup (for school-age) and Appleby Cup
will be contested at the supper. Details in October magazine.*

Traditional HARVEST FESTIVAL Service

10 am Sunday 12th October 2025

Variety of produce / flowers taken up to the Altar and singing of
'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land'

Come and help us raise the roof with our singing.

The Church will be filled with beautiful flowers and wonderful produce
which will be donated this year to the collection of all churches
in the Benefice in aid of FIND (Families in Need)

CRETINGHAM NOTES continued

RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 13th September

Can you help man the church? We need volunteers to sign people in and offer a friendly face and refreshments (which are all provided). Please speak to Alister if you can help.



COFFEE AND CHAT

10.30 - 12noon

September Friday 19th

October Monday 13th

November Monday 10th

December Saturday 13th as part of the Christmas Stall

Everyone welcome.

Pop the dates in your diary now!



You can now follow the Benefice of Mid-Loes on Facebook or Instagram - [beneficeofmidloes](#)

Also, keep in touch with the Benefice through:

www.mid-loes.com

www.achurchnearyou.com

If you would rather access the Benefice Magazine online through the website, or A Church Near You, rather than receive a printed copy, please let the office know, midloesoffice@gmail.com.



Friends of St Peter's Cretingham

BINGO



An evening of BINGO
with a CHILLI supper
(vegetarian option)



at The Bell Cretingham

Wednesday 3rd September at 7.00pm



Raffle

Cost: £15 includes supper & 1 card per round
To book your place please contact Katy Shircliff
NO LATER than Tuesday 26th August
07813 609772 or email: kshircliff@hotmail.com

Charity No1205705

DALLINGHOO NOTES

DALLINGHOO COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who attended August coffee morning. It was lovely to welcome Janice, Roz, Derek and the two ladies from Charsfield as well as our regulars.



There will be no coffee morning in September due to annual leave. We will however be back in October so please don't forget about us, the coffee mornings are getting more popular and it is so encouraging to see people from the village and surrounding villages meeting up for a social event.

I would like to thank the people who help make coffee mornings happen, Linda, Tina, Norman, Angela and a massive thank you to Mark Parry who puts posters up in and around the village, and for those who bring raffle prizes and produce to sell.



CHURCH CLEANING

Linda and I continue to clean the church on a Friday if anyone in the village would like to join us please do let Linda know.



FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

Thanks to Amanda for dropping of some flowers to Linda. If anyone else has a few that could be spared please pop them in to the church porch any day of the week. Linda will collect them.

CARPET BOWLS

Carpet Bowls starts again at Dallinghoo Village Hall 7 .30 pm.

The dates for October are 1st, 15th and 29th.

A fun evening, gentle exercise and previous experience necessary .

Come and join us, everyone welcome.

More details Cliff Green 01473737421





*Mrs Smith became a Living Installation -
'Woman who saw a snake'*



Dallinghoo Barbeque



Sunday 7th September

12:00 to 14:00

at

Dallinghoo Village Hall



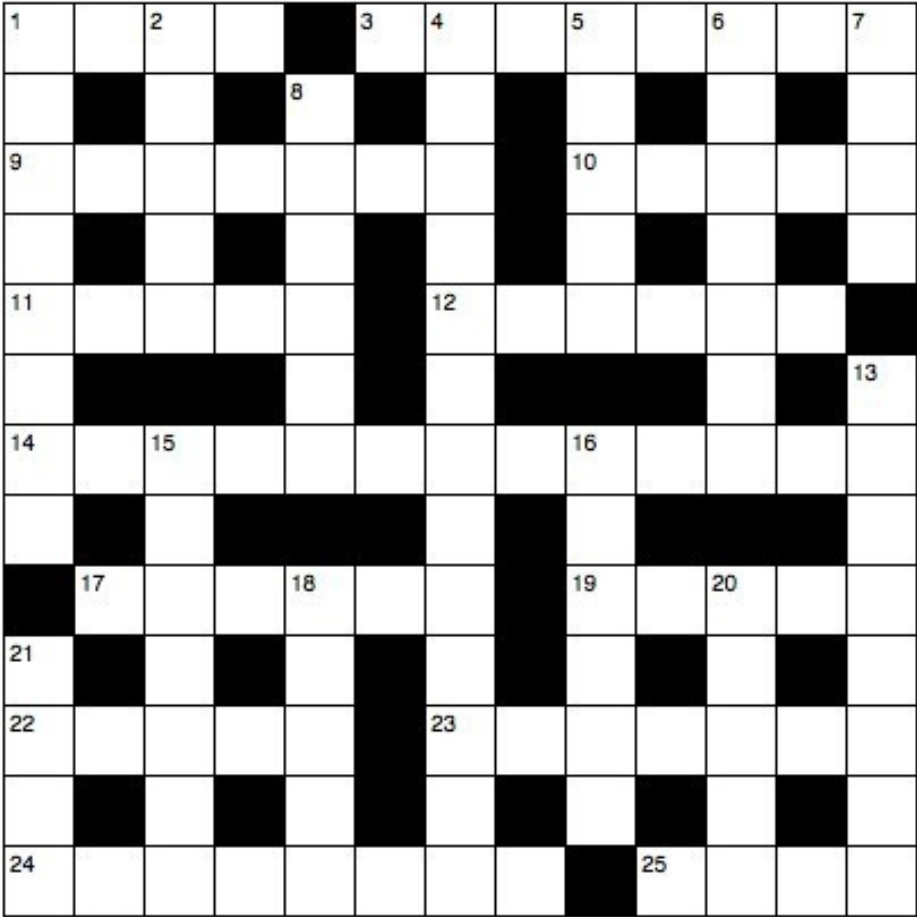
Bring your own drinks

Tickets: Adults - £8; under 12 - £5

Purchase by 30th August by emailing:

dallinghoobbq@gmail.com

[No email? Call Dawn Gill on 01473 737296 to book tickets]



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www.mid-loes.com

www.achurchnearyou.com

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Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

Contributions to the Magazine

Please note that any contributions to the magazine need to
be sent to the following e-mail address:
midloesmagazine@gmail.com

EARL SOHAM NOTES

EARL SOHAM WI

A thriving, growing and friendly group. We hold interesting, informative and fun meetings. These are usually on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7.00pm at Brandeston Village Hall. New members from Earl Soham and the surrounding villages/areas are most welcome.



Next meeting:

August - There is no formal meeting but outings this month usually include theatre visits to Aldeburgh and Southwold

Sept 25th - 7.00pm - Journey to the Antarctic with Claudia Myatt
(Brandeston Village Hall)



Find us at www.sefwi.org.uk or contact Eleri Whitham– 01728 628614



REMINDER:

**SUFFOLK CHURCHES
RIDE AND STRIDE
SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025
9 am – 5 pm**

**St Mary's Earl Soham will be open
Sponsor forms available from
Mary Patterson, "Sunnyside", Earl Soham
or in St Marys Church**

Northern Light Performs
*Dawn to
Dusk*

Join us for an evening of choral music performed by the choir
Northern Light, from The University of Edinburgh.

The evening will include classical, folk and jazz music, from composers such as Parry, Tippet, Byrd and Rheinberger. The concert will be held at St Mary's Church, Earl Soham, with a wine reception during the interval.

ADMISSION ON THE NIGHT.

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF MID LOES BENEFICE.

20th September, 7pm

**Tickets £10 (On the door)
(Wine included)**

**St Mary's Church,
Earl Soham , IP13 7SE**

READINGS



September 2025

| Date | Readings | Psalm |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| September 7th Benefice Service | Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33 | 139:15,12-18 |
| September 14th | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10 | 14 |
| September 21st | 1 Timothy 2:17 Luke 16:1-13 | 79:19 |
| September 28th | 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19end | 146 |

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:

Revd Kathleen Martin 01473 737 285

Margaret Salter 01473 737 182

Mary Vellacott 01728 685423

Revd Wendy Gourlay 01728 685335



CHURCH SERVICES

| Church | September 7 th | September 14 th | September 21 st | September 28 th |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Trinity 12 Green | Trinity 13 Green | Trinity 14 Green | Trinity 15 Green |
| Ashfield | | 6.30pm Evening Prayer VB | 8.30am Holy Communion KM | X |
| Charsfield with Debach | | X | 6.30pm Evening Prayer GB | 10am Harvest HC KM |
| Cretingham | | 10am Morning Prayer APW | 10am Holy Communion GB | X |
| Dallinghoo | | 6.30pm Holy Communion KM | 10am All-Age Worship CW | X |
| Earl Soham | 10am Benefice Holy Communion KM & WG | 10am Morning Prayer CW | 10am Holy Communion KM | 10am Harvest All-Age Worship GB |
| Hoo | | 8.30am Holy Communion KM | X | 6.30pm Harvest GB |
| Letheringham | | X | X | X |
| Monewden | | 10am Holy Communion KM | X | 10am Harvest All-Age Worship APW |

Key to Service Leader:

GB = Revd Gary Best;

KM = Revd Kathleen Martin;

WG = Revd Wendy Gourlay;

APW = Amber Pearce Williams, Lay Elder;

MV = Mary Vellacott, Lay Elder;

CW = Churchwarden;

VB = Veda Berriman, Reader.



OCTOBER BENEFICE SERVICE

Sunday 5th October at 10am - Charsfield



EARL SOHAM NOTES continued

EARL SOHAM FETE, SATURDAY, 2ND AUGUST

It was a wonderful afternoon and it felt like the Green was buzzing from start to finish.

Families were sitting together, enjoying food and drink and having a fun time with the many traditional games and the stalls. It was so lovely to see. And, yes, all the meetings, the planning, the lifting, the lugging is definitely very worth it. Not only for the considerable sum we raised but because it brings the community together. We had a lot of help, particularly with clearing away and the Green was clean and tidy with all put away by 6.30 - amazing!

On behalf of the Fete Committee and the PCC, I would like to thank everyone for their help in whatever way, on the day and before and after - we couldn't do it without you

In particular, I would like to mention the following local people and businesses who have supported us, either by sponsoring a game, or by donating a raffle prize:

Aspall Cyder, Bridge House Catering, Clarke & Simpson, the Common Room, Earl Soham Brewery, East of England Co-Op, Ernest Doe, Garnetts Gardens, Gatesbys, John Hutton, Bruce Hinton, Longstaffs, Matspace, Rob Pearce, Signal House Therapies, Walnes Seeds.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

Mavis Kerridge, ES Fete Committee

CHURCH ROTA

| Date | Readers | Sides person |
|--|---|--------------|
| Sep 7th 10am Benefice Holy Communion | Benefice Holy Communion, Earl Soham All Welcome! | |
| Sep 14th | No Service at Charsfield. Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice | |
| Sep 21st 6.30pm Evening Prayer | Franki Margaret | Margaret |
| Sep 28th 10am Harvest Service Holy Communion | Sheila Mike | Mike |

EARL SOHAM NOTES continued

ST MARY'S EARL SOHAM

We are looking for an Examiner to sign off the 2025 accounts in Feb/March next year. It is not an Audit so no qualifications required. I would suggest that it is an afternoon's work and If anyone would like to speak to me to go over what is required please call on 07395 918937. It would be a tremendous help to know that we have someone in place before the end of the year.

Thank you, Chris Pratt, Treasurer, Earl Soham PCC

ROTA FOR THE ALTAR AND ROLL OF HONOUR FLOWERS AND BRASSES

| Rota for the Altar and Roll of Honour Flowers and Brasses- St. Mary's | |
|--|--------------------------|
| September | Mrs Lancaster/Mrs Gadd |
| October | Mrs Kerridge/Mrs Roberts |
| Any problems Ring Denise - 685234 | |



*As far as Revd Gary could tell, the burglar
had disturbed nothing in the vestry.*

Future services:

Harvest Festival

Sunday 10th October 2025 10am

Remembrance Service

Sunday 9th November

Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday 21st December 6pm



BENEFICE CHOIR

If you would like to join a group of committed singers who come together on the first Sunday of the month at our benefice services, then please read on.

Whether you are an experienced singer or have a good ear and the ability to 'pick up a tune', then please come along and join us at the next benefice service, details of which are on the front cover of this magazine.

The Benefice Choir is developing a growing repertoire of Choral Music, Anthems, Psalms and Chants, and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us to sing at these well supported services.

In preparation for the September service, we will be holding a rehearsal at St. Mary's Church, Dallingham (IP13 0LA), on Tuesday 2nd September, 7pm, to which you will be very welcome to join us.

If you would like further information,

please contact Jonathan Lettin – lettins@me.com

You can now follow the Benefice of Mid-Loes on Facebook or Instagram - [beneficeofmidloes](https://www.facebook.com/beneficeofmidloes)

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If you would rather access the Benefice Magazine online through the website, or A Church Near You, rather than receive a printed copy, please let the office know, midloesoffice@gmail.com.



HOO NOTES

OPEN GARDEN

.....

As we reflect on the success, financial and otherwise, of the 2025 Open Garden at Hoo Hall and the accompanying concert in Hoo church, it seems appropriate to talk a bit more about an event that has been a part of the Hoo year for well over a quarter of a century now. Looking at the purely financial aspect, it doesn't take much arithmetic to work out that the Open Garden over those years has raised a sum for the benefit of Hoo church well in excess of £10,000, a wonderful contribution to the funds of our little church.



As far as otherwise is concerned, all the pleasure seeing a beautiful country house garden, because that is what Hoo Hall possesses, given to all the visitors who have come over those years. The PCC owes a huge debt to the various gardeners, who have tended and nurtured the garden over that period.

As one of our PCC members remarked recently to another PCC member (Mark, the current gardener) "Well, people wouldn't come to see a meadow, would they!" Mark not only keeps a loving eye over his garden, but also over the church, looking in daily to make sure all is OK while the church is unlocked to welcome the regular visitors who delight in its simplicity. To me, this caring attitude to garden and the neighbouring church demonstrates so well the intertwined relationship between the two.

HOO NOTES continued

While gardeners and indeed PCC members have come and gone over the years, there has been one constant factor with the Open Garden, and that has been the generosity and kindness of Graham Nicholson in allowing his garden, and part of his home, to be used to raise funds for Hoo church. Also, for allowing his gardeners to play the important role I have already mentioned in caring for the church throughout the year. Mere words are not really thanks enough for what Graham has done, and continues to do, for Hoo church, but the current members of the PCC hope we convey how very grateful we are for that.

We all have our particular memories of Hoo Hall Open Garden, and I suspect quite a few people, whether “Hooligans”, or outsiders like me, remember our much-missed churchwardens. Perry and Margaret, at the centre of things in the Hall kitchen. I can see them now, Perry a little flushed as she struggled to keep up with Margaret’s seemingly boundless energy, each greeting everyone in their unique ways. While on the subject of greetings, it would be very remiss of me not to mention Eric, Perry’s husband, who sat by the gate, welcoming visitors with a lovely old fashioned Suffolk politeness that I admired so much and try to aspire to now I have the role of “gateman”.

The PCC is already looking forward to the 2026 Open Garden and rest assured we will let you know as soon as a date is set by Graham, so you can tell your friends and family, either to come again or for the first time. If you have happy memories of summer Sundays at Hoo Hall Open Garden, please share them with me (fwhitbread57@gmail.com) so I can include them under Hoo Notes in future editions of this magazine, as the history of such a long running event as this needs to be recorded for posterity.



SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE (“RIDE AND STRIDE”)

Following my piece in last month’s magazine, just a quick reminder about this longstanding annual event, which takes place this year on Saturday 13 September between 9am and 5pm. Hoo church will be open and manned throughout that period to welcome cyclists and walkers taking part in “Ride and Stride”, but we will be pleased to see anyone else who would like to visit our lovely little church and have a chat.

For anyone who would like to either cycle or walk to raise funds for Hoo church, there is a supply of sponsorship forms in the church.

Francis Whitbread

MONNEWDEN NOTES

CHURCH ROTAS

| Date | Flowers/Brasses | Church Cleaning | Sidesperson | Coffee |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| Sept. 7 | | | | |
| Sept. 14 | W. Heath | F. Watts & C. Saxby | D. Grier | W. Heath |
| Sept. 21 | | | | |
| Sept. 28 | S. Kingston | J. Vonberg | L. Grier | C. Saxby |

CHURCH READERS

Sept. 14 Jill Vonberg, Paul Vonberg.



100 CLUB WINNERS

July 1 £25 A. Legge 2 £15 W. Heath 3 £10 S. Rose.

August 1 £25 J. Vonberg 2 £15 W. Heath 3 £10 R. Aitchison

FIRS FARM COMMUNION

This month's service will be on Thursday, September 11th, at 12 noon, and will be taken by Revd. Kathleen Martin.



SATURDAY CAFE

Our next **CAFE** will be on Saturday, September 20th from 10 a.m. onwards. Real coffee, tea, breakfast and bacon rolls will be served. Come and join us, this monthly event is now very popular. The 100 Club draw prizes for September will be drawn at this event.

MONNEWDEN HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

This year will be held at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, September 28th at 10 a.m. and will be followed by refreshments.



RIDE & STRIDE

In aid of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, will be held on Saturday, September 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wendy Heath will be organising church sitting and if anyone wishes sponsorship forms they are available from Brian Martin (01473 737285).





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Crossword Answers

ACROSS:

1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi.
10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me.
14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch.
19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia.
24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN:

1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ.
5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp.
8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic.
16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre.
21, Slav.

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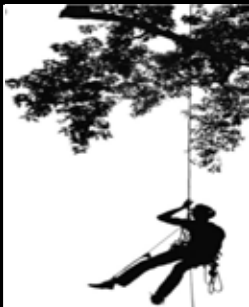
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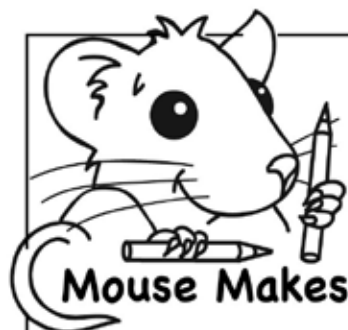
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| Cretingham | Acting Clerk : Caroline Saxby E-mail: cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com |
| Dallinghoo | Chris Ling E-mail: dallinghoo@outlook.com Tel: 07963305205 |
| Earl Soham | Guy Harvey E-mail: espcclerk@gmail.com Tel: 01728 685729 |
| Hoo | Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above) |
| Letheringham | Mr Trevor Gill E-mail: letheringhamparishcouncil@gmail.com Website: https://letheringham.onesuffolk.net |
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| Dallinghoo | Mr Chris Pennington Tel: 01473 737 836 |
| Earl Soham | Village Hall Committee Tel: 07961 606647 Email: esvhbookings@gmail.com Website: earlsohamvillagehall.org |
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| CHARSFIELD | CEVC Primary School | Mr Mark Taylor | 01473 737 347 |
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Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."

- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."

- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.

He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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| Secretary | Mrs. Mavis Kerridge, The Malt House, Earl Soham | 01728 685 700 |
| Treasurer | Christopher Pratt, 5 Clarke Drive, Framlingham | 07395 918 937 |

HOO

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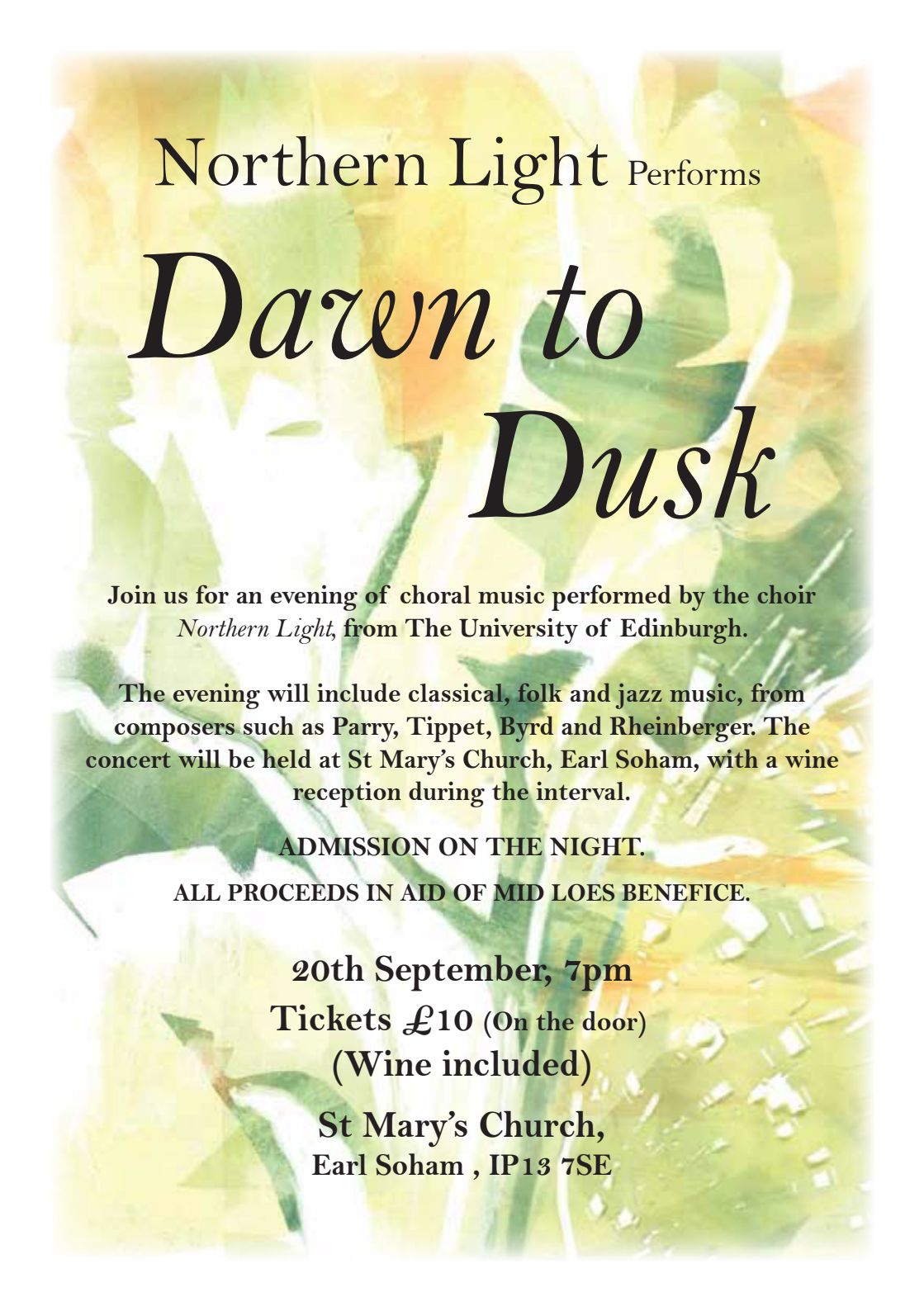
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| Churchwardens | David Grier, Northgates, Monewden | 01473 737 298 |
| | Mr Brian Martin, Firs Farm, Monewden | 01473 737 285 |
| Secretary | Mrs. Caroline Saxby, Maple Ho, Rookery Rd. Mon'den | 01473 277 146 |
| Treasurer | David & Lesley Grier,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

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OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE is
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