

Benefice of Mid-Loes Magazine

February - March 2026



WHO'S WHO ACROSS THE PARISHES

Rector	Revd Gary Best, The Rectory, Earl Soham (Day off Friday) Email: midloesoffice@gmail.com	01728 685550
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, Crettingham Jonathan Lettin, Moat Farm, Crettingham	01728 685 335 07896 251 569
Treasurer	Alister Gourlay, Tubric Cottage, Crettingham	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	

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

From The Rectory...

WELCOME to your February/March benefice magazine.

Firstly, I hope that the New Year has started well and that those New Year Resolutions are still in place!

I had a wonderful start to the year, with a benefice service taking place and where a new Lay Elder was licensed, Alister Gourlay (Cretingham), whom we welcome to the Ministry Team. It was a packed church at Dallinhoo, where we were also joined by Archdeacon Rich Henderson who performed the formal licensing, and a joyous occasion it was for everyone.



The role of the Elder is unique to Suffolk, beginning as a ministry pathway in the late 1960s, where Elders were introduced to allow lay people to assist with pastoral work and leading worship, providing valuable support to rural clergy and parishes, and I have certainly grown to appreciate the role of the lay Elder within this benefice of 8 churches. For Alister, it was a very clear ‘calling’ to the role of Elder, driven by his faith to undertake the role serving others in a formal capacity, and it is this word, ‘calling’ that I have been thinking about recently as I have been studying Bible stories where people experience a sense of ‘calling’ to follow God, moving into a deeper faith, moving into discipleship, and as I remind myself on many occasion, moving into priesthood due to a ‘calling’, where God spoke to me directly...perhaps a story for another time. But, through understanding more about that sense of ‘calling’ in the context of faith, or ministry, or church life, I realise that it does not have to be linked directly to a role such as an Elder, or Priest, it can be to so much more, which was highlighted at a recent PCC Day of Reflection, where people spoke in groups about their role in serving the church through being on the PCC (Parochial Church Council – the trustees of the church). To be fair, I already knew and I am very grateful that people serve the church in many ways, offering their gifts and talents however they can, but equally, I wonder how many people living in the benefice villages, feel a sense of ‘calling’ to serve their local parish church, but have never been asked, or perhaps do not know who to speak too? Could that be you?

continued page 5



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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.

**If you would like further information,
please contact Jonathan Lettin -
lettins@me.com**

Benefice Services for February & March

Sunday 1st February - St. Peter's, Cretingham - 10am

Sunday 1st March - St. Mary's, Monewden - 10am

COPY DEADLINES FOR 2026

April-May 2026: *March 15th*

June-July 2026: *May 17th*

August-September 2026: *July 19th*

October-November 2026: *September 20th*

December 2026 - January 2027: *November 15th*

Roles, or a sense of 'calling' in serving your church can include being a member of the PCC, ensuring that the church is managed and run well in keeping the doors open, the building in good order, the finances sound, and of course, keeping the ministry alive. Equally, a 'calling' could be in helping to clean your local church; flower arranging; church ground maintenance... the list could go on, but it is that sense of 'calling' to serve your local church, offering your gifts and talents that I explore with you here. Whether you can offer some time on a weekly or monthly basis, or less frequently, is not the issue, as the availability will be different for everybody, but just perhaps you have an opportunity, perhaps a sense of 'calling' to help your church in some way?

It's good to talk, so please do not hesitate to make contact if this might be you. Whether you reach out to someone you know at your church, or by reaching out directly to me...it would be great to hear from you.

Revd Gary



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

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

Margaret Salter 01473 737 182

Mary Vellacott 01728 685423

Revd Wendy Gourlay 01728 685335



**THE DEADLINE for contributions panel
APRIL/MAY 2026 ISSUE is SUNDAY 15TH MARCH**

Charsfield Village Hall

St. Valentine's Supper

Saturday 14th February 2026

7:00 for 7:30 pm

Celebrating:

Love • Friendship • Good Neighbours !

3 Course Supper (Veg options)

Bar • Music • Raffle

In aid of Charsfield Recreation Ground

£20.00 per person – Book Early !

Sue charsfieldrc@gmail.com

Lesley ljm.fuller@gmail.com

ASHFIELD NOTES

ASHFIELD WELFARE TRUST

This Trust exists to help anyone who is an Ashfield resident who may at any time need funds for a number of things if they are in need.

The Trustees would invite anyone who thinks that the Trust could help them to get in touch with them in confidence.

Ruth Hart, Chairman **01728 685622**

Ann Burton, Secretary **01728 684858**

Sue Henney, Treasurer **01728 685526**



Ash Wednesday Service

St. Mary's Church - Ashfield

Wednesday 18th February – 11.30am



**Please join us for this
Ash Wednesday Service
to mark the start of Lent.**

*'Remember that you are but dust,
and to dust you shall return'.*

Ecclesiastes 3:20

PRAYER REQUESTS

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



A Charsfield Community Event

Winter Warmer

Wednesday 11th February 2026

10.30am - 1pm Charsfield Village Hall

New

**Social ^{PLUS} Local Services and
Wellbeing advice available**

Save the date - Drop in at any point

Ideal for the over 60s – Say hello, refreshments and lunch in the warm



Transport available from nearby villages to/from Charsfield



(Contact your local Parish Council to arrange transport)

**Local help and advice on hand Accessing local activities,
Physical and mental health support, Money advice, Pointers
into local health services, plus much more!**



Teas/Coffees and cake throughout – Soup and roll lunch provided



Charsfield Primary School Choir



Charsfield Parish Council working with East Suffolk Council, SWISH & many others

CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES



CHARSFIELD AND DALLINGHOO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



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 Secretary, Ros Bayley at CharsfieldDallinghoo@sefwi.org.uk or 01473 737171

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!

February 9th. Amanda Parker, DeFibrillator and CPR. Charsfield Village Hall

March 9th. Ms Victoria Clark. The history of Shrubland hall. Charsfield Village Hall

April 13th. Mr John Hammond. St Elizabeth Hospice. Dallinghoo Village Hall

May 11th. Laura Parsons. Sewing Machines our mothers owned. Dallinghoo Village Hall

ST PETER'S CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

07 February		Angela Farmer
14 February	Flowers to be removed by Wednesday 18 Feb (Lent)	Bev Gugenheim
21 February	Lent	No flowers
28 February	Lent	No flowers
07 March	Lent	No flowers
14 March	Lent	No flowers
21 March	Lent	No flowers
28 March	Lent	No flowers

UPDATE FROM CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Wed 11 February 2026
Winter Warmer

Over 60s warm social event for all local villages in Charsfield Village Hall 10.30am-1pm. Say hello and catch-up with refreshments, cake and a soup/roll lunch all provided. Present for informal advice and support will be Citizens Advice, various wellness teams and experts from Grundisburgh Tech Hub. Transport is available to/from Charsfield from local villages, just let us know if required. Pass the invite to friends/neighbours.

Charsfield Family Days

Our two inaugural events in August and December 2025 were very well attended by local families and everyone seemed to have a good time. More to come in 2026!

Food & Drink local to Charsfield

Do you have food/or drink produce available to locals? Regularly or just occasionally? Small or even large quantities? If so, join our new "keep it local" Charsfield Food and Drink List, to be published shortly on the Charsfield website.

Charsfield Emergency Plan

The local emergency plan has been refreshed, re-published and will be rehearsed shortly.

Your Charsfield Parish Council contact is:

Viviane Ward

clerk@charsfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.charsfield.org.uk

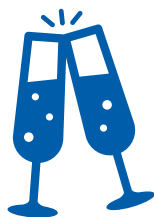
All welcome at Charsfield Village Hall!

Table
Tennis

Pop Up Bar



Contactless
Payment



Friday 6th & 20th February

Friday 6th & 20th March

7pm – 10pm

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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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

"I will give you rest"

Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March 2026.

The service they have prepared reflects on the theme, "I will give you rest." The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties. The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March. This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

The World Day of Prayer Service in the Benefice will be at St. Peter's Charsfield on Friday 6th March at 2:30pm. Everybody welcome!



BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION & LIGHT LUNCH

Thursday 12th March

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



Photos from across the Benefice

If you have a photo taken at a local church event, or from within and around our churches, or if you are able to take a scenic photo of the beautiful countryside in which our benefice sits, please send your photos through for inclusion in the new, 'Photos from around the Benefice' pages, or a picture that might work as a front cover.

Please send your photos to midloesmagazine@gmail.com

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DBS Checked!



CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES continued

Date	Readers	Sides person
Feb 1st 10am Benefice Holy Communion Cretingham	Benefice Holy Communion Cretingham All Welcome	
Feb 8th	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice	
Feb 15th 4pm Evening Prayer	Antony Margaret	Margaret
Feb 22nd 10am Holy Communion	Lesley Linda	Linda
Mar 1st 10am Benefice Service Monewden	10am Benefice Service Monewden All Welcome	
Mar 6th 2.30pm World Day of Prayer Charsfield	2.30 pm World Day of Prayer Charsfield All Welcome	
Mar 8th	No Service at Charsfield Please check the Magazine for details of Services elsewhere in the Benefice	
Mar 15th 4pm Evening Prayer	Franki Margaret	Margaret
Mar 22nd 10am Holy Communion	Sheila Mike	Mike
Mar 31st 7pm Compline	Readers to be confirmed	
Mar 29th 10am Benefice Service Ashfield Palm Sunday	10am Benefice Service Ashfield All Welcome	
Apr 5th 9.30am Holy Communion Easter Day	Linda Mike	Mike





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CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES continued



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who attended the Village Carol Service in December making it a very enjoyable evening with about 60 people in St. Peter's. We were ably accompanied by the IPSWICH HOSPITAL BAND who played carols for the service and Christmas favourites.

Thank you to Rev Gary, all the readers and to the team providing refreshments and spiced drinks. The Carol Service raised £110 for the Church Fabric fund.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH CHARSFIELD FEBRUARY/MARCH CLEANING ROTA			
14 February	Angela & Joyce	14 March	Margaret
28 February	Lucy	28 March	Linda & Lesley

SAVE THE DATE

CHARSFIELD

FLOWER PRODUCE

AND CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026 AT

CHARSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Entries in place by 10:15am

Viewing, Refreshments, Raffle 2pm



A wonderful occasion at St. Peter's, Charfields - the baptism of Zofia Stratton.



FUNDRAISER RACE NIGHT

back by popular demand!

**Our re-arranged Race Night will be held
on Saturday 7th February at Brandeston Village Hall**

**Another evening of high drama, excitement and also-
rans as we join racegoers trackside across the UK to
witness eight close-run races.**

**Bring your friends – 7pm – first race 7.15 –
and make up a table to cheer your selected gee-gee.**

Guaranteed FUN but (sadly) no guaranteed profit!!

Tickets £12 to include a hot supper.

Card payment available on the night

Please contact Alister

(tubric.cottage@gmail.com 01728 685335)

or Heather (heather.runacres@hotmail.co.uk

'01728 685736) to book your place.

CRETINGHAM NOTES



CAROLS IN THE CRETINGHAM BELL

Thank you to everyone who supported this event on the 17th of December!

The collection for East Anglia's Children's Hospice – EACH – raised £290.36

OUR CAROL SERVICE was well-attended this year and many of you stayed for the mince pies and mulled wine. Special thanks to Revd Wendy Gourlay for compiling an entertaining and thoughtful service. Thanks also to Fiona Harrington, Wendy Kemp and Charles Wright for their unique contributions. And to our readers who helped to tell the Christmas Story.

SPEED LIMIT THROUGH THE VILLAGE

There was very little physical support for the idea of a local Community Speedwatch Group when its formation was discussed at Parish Council on the 14th January. However, the search for volunteers goes on!



BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY 1st February at 10am

We are delighted to be hosting the February Benefice Service at St Peter's and anticipate a well-filled church. We are also pleased to welcome the growing Benefice Choir who do so much to complement our hymn-singing. Refreshments will be available after the service.



COFFEE AND CHAT IN ST PETER'S

Our popular Coffee and Chat get-togethers continue into 2026 with the dates for the first three being:

**Monday 2nd February
and Friday 6th March**

From 10.30 until Noon – fresh coffee, a selection of teas, biscuits and (increasingly) CAKE are served, along with CHAT about all manner of subjects.

Come and join us in 2026!

Valentines Special

live JAZZ & CURRY night

DALLINGHOO VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 14TH FEB
7PM ARRIVAL FOR 7.30 MEAL

TICKETS £20

(INC CURRY FROM THE BENGAL-
CHICKEN, LAMB, VEG, RICE & NAAN
PLUS PUDDING!)

Please purchase tickets by
31st January using
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(so we can order food)
No email?
Call Dawn Gill 01473 737296

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BOTTLE PARTY!



DALLINGHOO NOTES



THANK YOU

Di and Peter Turner for so kindly supplying the beautiful Christmas tree for St Mary's church every year in honour of Primrose also to Linda and John Parry for putting the tree up, decorating the tree and the church.

To everyone who attended or helped at the Christmas fayre held in November. Thanks again to Father Christmas for coming to Dallinghoo early. It was so nice to see so many people turning up to support this event. We raised an amazing £745 for church funds. Hopefully it will be bigger and better this year the date is set for December 5th.

John and Linda Parry for delivering the magazine every month in all weathers over the past years.

To the church repair fund & Village Hall committees for all their hard work over the past year and all those working to bring Dallinghoo together as a vibrant community.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Date	Event	Where	Cost
January 30 th	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
February 14 th	Curry & live Jazz – Raffle	Village Hall	See posters for details
March 7 th	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
March 28 th	St Mary's churchyard Clean up Refreshments provided.	St Mary's Church	Free refreshments
April 25 th	Plant & Cake Sale – Always a popular event. Refreshments will be available	Village Hall	As priced on the day
May 2 nd	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
May 6 th	Beetle Drive – Jacket Potato with Chilli (Veggie option available)& Raffle	Village Hall	See posters for details
June 6 th	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
July 4 th	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
August 1 st	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
August 23 rd	BBQ – Details to follow	Village Hall	tbc
September 5 th	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
October 1 st – 31 st	Village Scarecrow Competition – more details to follow	Throughout the Village	Free Entry
October 3 rd	Coffee & Chat – Raffle and Cake Sale	Village Hall	Free Drinks
October 24 th	Harvest Supper – 2 course Meal, Raffle & Entertainment	Village Hall	£15
November 14 th	Oil Lamp exhibition - Refreshments. A beautiful display which also highlight the beauty of our church	St Mary's Church	tbc
December 5 th	Christmas Fayre & a visit from Santa	Village Hall	Free
December	Carols around the village – Date to be confirmed.		Free

If anyone would like to help out at the coffee mornings or bake cakes please do get in touch with me (Jane) on 07780 787842



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Photos from around the Benefice



Our Benefice Alpha Fellowship group raised £100 to send to Crisis for Christmas when we donated for a Christmas Lunch altogether.



READINGS & CHURCH SERVICES FEBRUARY 2026

Church	February 1 st	February 8 th	February 15 th	February 18 th	February 22 nd
	4 th of Epiphany	2 nd Before Lent	1 st Before Lent	Ash Wednesday	1 st Sunday of Lent
	White	Green	Green	Purple	Purple
Ashfield		4pm Evening Prayer VB	8.30am Holy Communion GB	11.30am Ash Wednesday GB	X
Charsfield with Debach		X	4pm Evening Prayer GB	X	10am Holy Communion GB
Cretingham	10am Benefice HC GB	10am Morning Prayer AG	10am Holy Communion WG	X	X
Dallinghoo		4pm Holy Communion GB	10am Morning Prayer AG	X	X
Earl Soham		10am All-Age Worship WG	10am Holy Communion GB	X	10am Morning Prayer CW
Hoo		8.30am Holy Communion GB	X	X	8.30am Morning Prayer GB
Letheringham		X	X	X	X
Monewden		10am Holy Communion GB	X	X	10am All-Age Worship CW

Date	Readings	Psalms
February 1st Benefice Service	1 Corinthians 1:18-end John 2:1-11	36:5-10
February 8th 2 nd Before Lent	Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:25-end	136
February 15th 1 st Before Lent	2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17:1-9	2
February 18th Ash Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	51:1-18
February 22nd First Sunday of Lent	Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	32

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.



MARCH 2026



Church	March 1 st	March 6 th	March 8 th	March 15 th	March 22 nd	March 29 th
	2 nd of Lent	World Day of Prayer	3 rd of Lent	4 th of Lent	5 th of Lent	Palm Sunday
				Mothering Sunday		
	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Red
Ashfield			4pm Evening Prayer VB	8.30am Holy Communion GB	X	10am Benefice Service GB
Charsfield with Debach		2.30pm World Day of Prayer KM & LS	X	4pm Evening Prayer KM	10am Holy Communion KM	
Cretingham			10am Holy Communion KM	X	X	
Dallinghoo			X	10am Holy Communion KM	X	
Earl Soham			10am Morning Prayer CW	10am All-Age Service GB	10am Holy Communion GB	
Hoo			8.30am Holy Communion GB	X	8.30am Morning Prayer GB	
Letheringham			X	11.30am All-Age Worship GB	X	
Monewden	10am Benefice Service GB		10am Holy Communion GB	X	10am All-Age Worship WG	

Date	Readings	Psalm
March 1st Benefice Service	Romans 4:1-5,13-17 John 3:1-17	121
March 8th 3 rd of Lent	Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	95
March 15th Mothering Sunday	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:33-35	34:11-20
March 22nd 5 th of Lent	Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	130
March 29th Palm Sunday	Psalm 118:19-24 Matthew 21:1-11	118:19-24

HOLY WEEK SERVICES MARCH/APRIL 2026



Church	March 30 th	March 31 st	April 1 st	April 2 nd	April 3 rd	April 5 th
	Holy Week Compline	Holy Week Compline	Holy Week Compline	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Day
	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	White
Ashfield	X	X	X	X	X	8.30am Holy Communion GB
Charsfield with Debach	X	7pm Compline GB	X	X	X	9.30am Holy Communion KM
Cretingham	X	X	X	7pm Stripping of the Altar WVG	X	9.30am Holy Communion GB
Dallinghoo	X	X	X	X	X	11am Holy Communion KM
Earl Soham	7pm Compline GB	X	X	X	9.45am Walk of Witness GB	11am Holy Communion GB
Hoo	X	X	X	X	X	8.30am Holy Communion KM
Letheringham	X	X	7pm Compline GB	X	X	9.30am Holy Communion WVG
Monewden	X	X	X	X	2pm Hour at the Cross KM +WVG	11am Holy Communion WVG



Photos from around the Benefice



Christmas at Debach



A wonderful occasion at St. Peter's, Charsfield - the baptism of Zofia Stratton.

Saturday 25th April

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Plant



and



Cake

Dallinghoo Village Hall

Car boot pitches available @£10: enquire 01473-737700

IP13 0JX

Sale



In aid of The
Dallinghoo Church
Repair Fund,
Charity No. 803135

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.

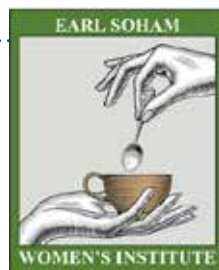
Next meeting:

Jan 22nd – 7.00pm – Hand Crank Sewing Machines Laura Parsons-Mann

Feb 26th – 7.00pm – Hand Massage and Essential Oils Amanda Smith

Mar 26th – 7.00pm – Birthday Meeting with invited guests

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



ST MARY'S ALTAR AND ROLL OF HONOUR FLOWERS AND BRASSES ROTA

February 2026	Mrs McCormack (Flowers from 1 st -17 th February only)
March 2026	Mrs Peacher (Brasses only)
April 2026	Mrs Lebus (Flowers from 4 th April)
Any problems please ring Denise - 685234	



Benefice Services for February & March

Sunday 1st February
St. Peter's, Cretingham - 10am

Sunday 1st March
St. Mary's, Monewden - 10am



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

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St Mary's Church Earl Soham

The Friends of St Mary's Church Earl
Soham Charity Concert on Saturday 18th
April 2026 at 3 pm.

Ipswich Hospital Band



**Charity Concert to raise funds to
replace section of the Nave Flooring.**

Tickets £15, Children under 11 years Free.

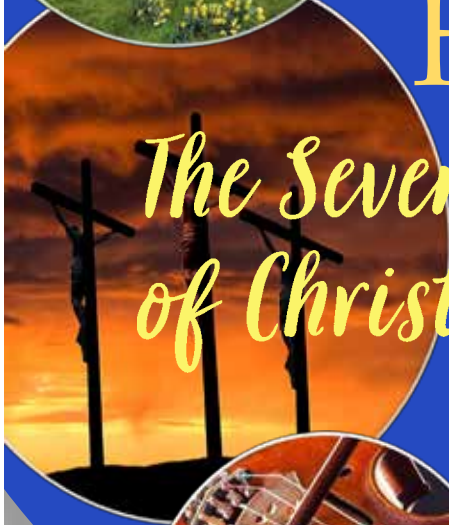
Tickets available from :

Irene Elmore : 01728 685814/Lizzie
Hyde : 01728 684810/ or On the
Door. Includes Free Glass Wine or
Soft Drink at the Interval



St Andrew & St Eustachius Hoo

*A performance in the church
by a string quartet of*



Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross*



Good Friday
3rd April 2026
4.30pm

Followed by a glass of wine and refreshments

Donations to Hoo Parochial Church Council welcomed

Hoo PCC extend their grateful thanks to Graham Nicholson for arranging this event



UPDATE

Christmas seems a long time ago already, but something that sticks in the mind is the carol service at Hoo church on Christmas Eve, which as usual was very well attended. Thanks to Reverend Wendy Gourlay for taking the service, and to my fellow PCC members for their work in making it an enjoyable and special occasion. The church was well decorated for the festive season and special thanks are due to Mark and Sonia for providing the memory tree, we were sorry they were unable to be with us and wish them a much better 2026.

We are now looking forward to Good Friday, 3 April 2026, when there will be a concert in our lovely little church, with a string quartet performing Haydn's "Last Seven Words of Christ on the Cross". Full details are on the attached flyer. We are extremely grateful to Graham Nicholson for organising this event for us. Graham has been a wonderful supporter of Hoo Church for so many years by opening his garden annually and we send him our sincere thanks for this further act of generosity.

Those reading this who have attended one of the concerts Graham organises as part of the Open Garden afternoon know what a great venue Hoo church is for music. Please come along and enjoy what will be a special afternoon, a combination of lovely music and reflection, and tell your friends and family so they can come as well.

Francis Whitbread



*Henry is making a real effort for Lent -
he's giving up the remote control
and walking to the TV*

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MONNEWDEN NOTES

READERS:

February 8th, Jill, Paul.

March 8th, Peter, Brian;

29th, David, Lesley.

100 CLUB WINNERS January:

1 £25 Chris Hurn; 2 £15 Stuart Rose;

3 £10 Fiona Watts.

SATURDAY CAFE

Our next **SATURDAY CAFE** will be on Saturday, February 21st and Saturday, March 21st, 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 February and March will be drawn at this event.

FIRS FARM

COMMUNION

will held at lunch time, 12 noon, on Thursday, March

12. The service

will be taken by

Rev. Kathleen

Martin, and takes place on the second Thursday of the month. Anyone in the benefice

is very welcome to attend.



EASTER SERVICES

at St. Mary's: Good Friday, April 3, 2 p.m. Hour at the Cross. Easter Day, April 5, 11 a.m. Holy Communion.

ROTA

Date	Flowers/Brasses	Church Cleaning	Sidesperson	Coffee
Feb. 8	S. Kingston	F. Watts & C. Saxby	L. Grier	W. Heath
LENT -- Clean Brass only				
Feb. 22	M. Gibson	J. Vonberg	J. Dinwiddy	L. Grier
March 8	L. Grier	W. Heath	W. Heath	C. Saxby
March 22	J. Coe	M. Sills	P. Keeble	W. Heath

BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION & LIGHT LUNCH

Thursday 12th March

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.

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10th & 24th March 2026 2pm - 4pm

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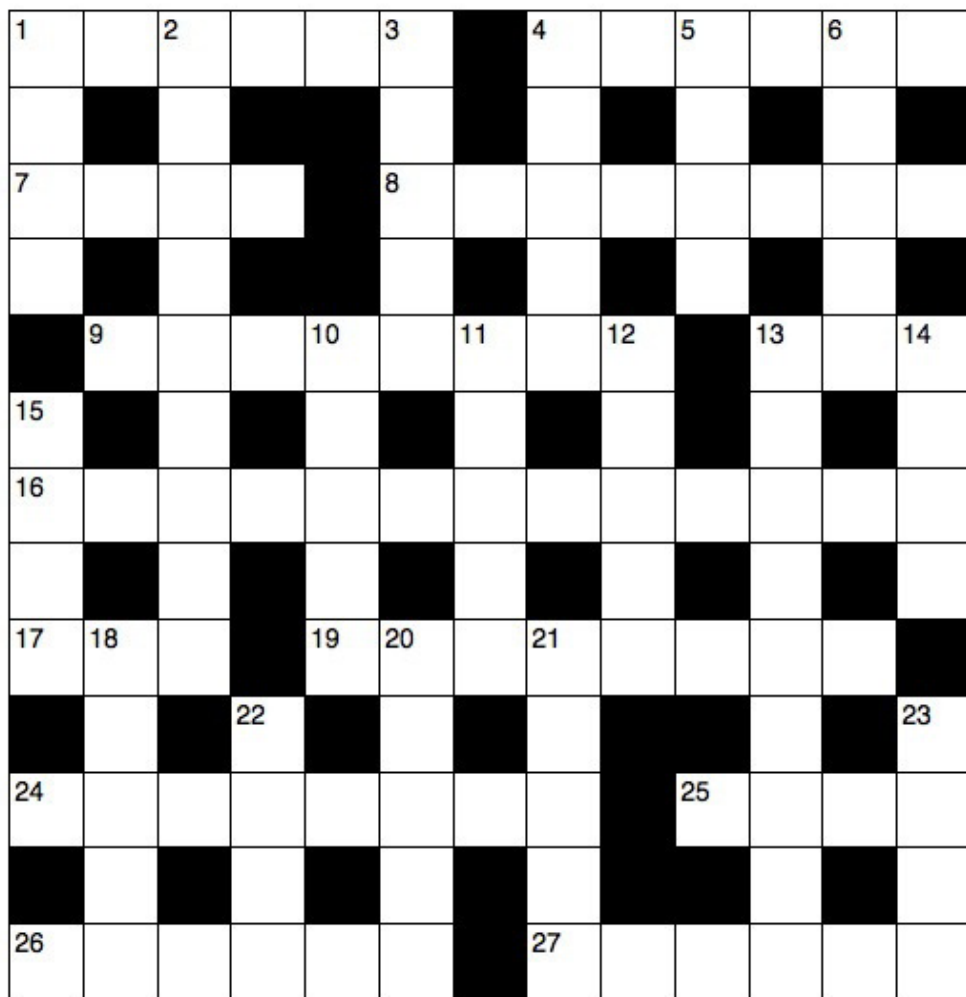
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Further Information:

The-debenham-project.org.uk

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Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what – is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's – overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. – – I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)



Technically, the Parish Share is a voluntary contribution

Down

- 1 'Before the – crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have – the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant – ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not – Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will – me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, – and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring – – his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his – , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, – and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

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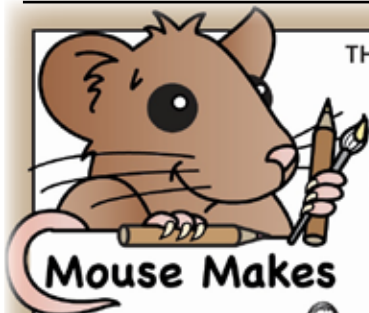
Ashfield	Mrs Sarah Clare E-mail: actpc.clerk@gmail.com Tel: 01449 781671
Charsfield	Viviane Ward E-mail: charsfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel: 07710 187570
Cretingham	Acting Clerk : Caroline Saxby E-mail: cmhparishcouncil@gmail.com
Dallinghoo	Chris Ling E-mail: dallinghoo@outlook.com Tel: 07963305205
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
Monewden	Caroline Saxby (see Cretingham above)

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Dallinghoo	Mr Chris Pennington Tel: 01473 737 836 Village Hall Committee
Earl Soham	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
“	Ladies Group	Mrs Susan Hansen	01728 685 738
CHARSFIELD	CEVC Primary School	Mr Mark Taylor	01473 737 347
“	WI Secretary	Mrs Rosalin Baley	01473 737171
“	Rec. Ground Com	charsfieldrc@gmail.com	
“	Tennis Club	charsfieldrgttennis@yahoo.com	
“	Flower Show Secretary	Mrs Pip Smith	01473 277166
“	Village Hall	Pam Hembra committee@charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk	
CRETINGHAM	Friends of St. Peters	Mr Charles Wright	01728 684 065
DALLINGHOOD	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	Mrs Jen Carlyle	01728 685 359
“	WI Secretary	Eleri Whitham	01728 628614
“	Village Hall Secretary	Mrs Susie Starke	01728 684 385
“	100 Club	Janice Meakin	07921 263632
“	Tennis Club	Mrs Mary Patterson	01728 685 362
“	Bowls Club	Martin Dorey	01728 684880
“	Scouts/Cubs/Beavers	1dv.group@suffolkscouts.org.uk	01728 723 712
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“	Carpet Bowls Club	Chris Pratt	07395 918937
	Allotment/Gardeners Association	Mr Tony Carr	07717 302214



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God first

Worship only Him.

1

F O R T Y D A Y S S O N K L O R D N H
T D O W N O N W O R S H I P
T E S T W O R L D L T U N B
L V T E M P T A T I O N G R
E I A M J E S U S F N G D E
N L K P D E S E R T E R O A
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WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust

Him do not test Him.



WHO'S WHO ACROSS THE PARISHES

EARL SOHAM

Churchwardens	Dr. John Elmore, Hill Farm, Earl Soham	01728 685 814
Secretary	Mrs. Mavis Kerridge, The Malt House, Earl Soham	01728 685 700
Treasurer	Christopher Pratt, 5 Clarke Drive, Framlingham	07395 918 937

HOO

Churchwardens	Vacancy	
Secretary	Mr Trevor Branton, The Poplars, Pound Hill, Dallinghoo	01473 737 246
Treasurer	Mr Francis Whitbread, Archers Keep, Butts Lane, Debenham. Email fwhitbread57@gmail.com	07788 563827

LEATHERINGHAM

Churchwardens	Vacancy	
Secretary	Janet Ross, Pips Cottage, Cooks Hill, Letheringham Email jeross1@me.com	01728 746228 07736 120931
Treasurer	Terence Carlin. Email terence.carlin@btinternet.com	01728 746480

MONNEWDEN

Churchwardens	David Grier, Northgates, Monewden Mr Brian Martin, Firs Farm, Monewden	01473 737 298 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

**In order to keep this information up to date
please inform the Editor of changes as they occur.**

midloesmagazine@gmail.com

Crossword Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

**THE DEADLINE for contributions panel
APRIL/MAY 2026 ISSUE is
SUNDAY 15TH MARCH**



Holy Week Services

Monday 30th March – Compline – **Earl Soham** – 7pm

Tuesday 31st March – Compline – **Charsfield** – 7pm

Wednesday 1st April – Compline – **Letheringham** – 7pm

Thursday 2nd April – Stripping of the Altar – **Cretingham** – 7pm

Friday 3rd April – Walk of Witness – **Earl Soham** – 9.45am (meet at the Green)

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday – Hour at the Cross – **Monewden** – 2pm



Easter Sunday Services

Ashfield – 8.30am

Earl Soham – 11am

Charsfield – 9.30am

Hoo – 8.30am

Cretingham – 9.30am

Letheringham – 9.30am

Dallinghoo – 11am

Monewden – 11am

