

Martlesham Monthly

DECEMBER 2025 • Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

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Martlesham Monthly

Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

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Advertising

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Collation and Assembly

Ken Davies (01473611109)

Distribution

Rob Webb
webbrn@btinternet.com

Editor

Gwynneth Johnson

Please email contributions to
martmonthly@btinternet.com

The copy deadline for issues is the 12th of the previous month.

Contributors are requested to limit their articles to approximately 250 words.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the Martlesham Monthly are those of the contributors and are not necessarily supported by the editor or the editorial team.

The Future of Martlesham Monthly

The Martlesham Monthly Editorial Team feel that the time is fast approaching for them to hand over the running of the magazine to a much younger group of people to take it forward into the future.

We are a group of five residents who all have specific jobs to ensure the production of the magazine ieach month.

1. An Editor who receives all the articles to go into the magazine each month and produces the final copy to be sent to the printers.

2. A Distribution Manager who is responsible for arranging for the 5 Team Leaders and 55 deliverers to be available each month. This person also produces all the labels to go on the bundles of magazines.

3. A Collator who receives 2800 magazines each month from the printers (in the MH Pavilion) and divides them into individual bundles, and then into 5 bundles for collection by the Team Leaders.

4. A person who is responsible for all the adverts in the magazine. The printers do all the graphics.

5. A person who is overall in charges of the group and is also the financial member ensuring all accounts are up to date.

Some of the jobs can be doubled up or divided. Full training and support will be given.

There is no financial implication involved just a commitment to do your appointed task and keep to the specific time frame. However, all expenses will be reimbursed.

We are more than happy to give anyone more information, please contact Paul Firman on 07801 954101

GIRLGUIDING

Currently we have 1 Rainbow Unit (ages 4 – 7), 1 Brownie Unit (ages 7-10) & 1 Guide Unit (ages 10-14) meeting on the Heath.

If you are interested in joining as a young member, or helping as a volunteer, please contact www.girlguidingsuffolk.org.uk & select the "join" or "volunteer" buttons on the home page.

Come & join the fun & start your guiding adventure today!"

1st MARTLESHAM SCOUTS

We have Beavers (6-8) who meet each Tuesday, Cubs (8-10.5) each Monday, Scouts (10.5-14) each Thursday and Explorers (14-18) who meet the first Monday of each month

For all enquiries regarding joining the groups please contact

membership@martleshamscouts.org.uk

For becoming a helper or hiring the Scout HQ, please contact Lindsay lindsayfw@msn.com

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

Tuesdays (Route 10)

Angela Close: 1.30-1.45pm

Bridge Farm Day Nursery 1.50-2.20pm

Falcon Mobile Home Park: 2.30-2.55pm

Douglas Bader: 3.00-4.15pm

November 18, 2025

December 16, 2025

Thursdays (Route 3)

Play2Day Nursery Gloster Road 10.10 - 10.40,

Douglas Bader: 10.50 - 11.50

November 6, 2025

December 4, 2025

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobiles-home/using-the-mobile-library-service/>

COMMUNITY RESPONDERS

Martlesham Community Responders are a group of volunteers funded entirely by donations who are trained to provided first aid and resuscitation skills.

We provide a first response to many 999 calls received by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust within Martlesham, Martlesham Heath, Waldringfield, Newbourne and Brightwell, in support of and until the arrival of an emergency ambulance.

For further details contact johnny.dixon@btinternet.com

POLICE

In case of emergencies pleas always call 999. In non-emergency situations call the new number 101

Email the Safer Neighbourhood Team woodbridge.snt@suffolk.police.uk

Martlesham Council

We would like to wish all Martlesham residents, businesses & local groups a very Merry Christmas and festive season! Please note that the Parish Council Office will be closed from the 24th December 2025 through until Monday 5th January 2026.

Thank you!

We would like to extend our thanks to our Volunteers for their continued support and hard work throughout the year. Your dedication has allowed up to continue with "Speed Watch", "SID Group", Play Space Inspectors, Notice Board Caretakers and members of our Working Parties/Groups.

Project update

Nature for Us All Project Area One, Kronji's Piece, Martlesham Recreation Ground

Now that the hard landscaping and earthworks are completed work has started on other features on the site.

Charlie Zakss, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), ran a session at Woodbridge Library on 22nd October making insect homes from natural materials (e.g. bark and twigs tied together), plus small wooden plaques decorated with drawings of minibeasts, with the Open Space Wellbeing Group.

Martlesham in Bloom organised and liaised with SCL Landscape Management Ltd getting the stakes for the dead hedge and putting them in for us on the morning of 28th October, and transporting native hedge prunings for us to the site.

The young people of Suffolk Sight Juniors arrived with their family and friends. Charlie (SWT) and Sonya (project designer) introduced the session and the Nature for Us All Project. They all then set to work very enthusiastically digging a hole at the end of one section of dead

hedge for a stag beetle home and cutting up pieces of bamboo cane for insect homes and a hexagonal solitary bee home. All of the dead hedge material was put in between the posts, logs were put into the hole for the stag beetles and the insect homes made by the Open Space well-being group were incorporated into the dead hedge.

Both sessions were a great success with both groups keen to meet up again doing nature based activities.

Diamond Jubilee Bike Trails

We are currently in the process of applying for funding which will enable us to carry out much need work to the Bike Trails. We know first-hand how well used these trails are from our visits to the site. We are also aware of the attempted remodelling that has taken place, by users of the trails, over the last year. We understand that the jumps needs to be made more compact, in order to keep the structure in place, the starting ramp needs improving as to do the jumps and berm.

If you or your children would like to have an input into the remodelling of this facility, please contact the Parish Council Office:- enquires@martleshamcouncil.org.uk. Your input into local facilities is invaluable.

Neighbourhood Watch

Our Neighbourhood Watch scheme is now live and we would love for you to be a part of it. Signing up couldn't be easier, simply visit Ourwatch.org.uk and search using our scheme number.

We will be sharing updates about upcoming events on our website and social media pages, so watch this space!

Scheme Number:- 00182752

We deliver to the following places only:

Ipswich (postcodes IP1 – IP5)
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Grundisburgh, The Bealings, Culpho, Playford
Felixstowe, Walton, Trimley St Mary, Trimley St Martin, Kirton, Falkenham

We CANNOT deliver to anywhere else.

Please enclose payment in a bag attached with your cards along with a contact name/ address/telephone number so that we may contact you if there is a problem with delivery.

All funds raised go directly to local Scouting, supporting activities, equipment, and opportunities for young people in the community.

Residents are encouraged to post early as it gets very busy later on.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council will be reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, initially looking the Neighbourhood Plan Area and whether this needs to be updated. Next steps will include setting up a Steering Group. We would invite anyone from the Community, local businesses, environmental, heritage and faith groups to contact us at

enquires@martleshamcouncil.org.uk if you are interested in being part of the Steering Group.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Please note that the full Parish Council will not meet in December. Subsequent meetings are: -

Finance & General Purpose Committee –

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Development, Environment & Transport

Committee – Wednesday 10th December 2025

Next full Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Meetings are held in the Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, IP12 4PB. All Council meetings start at 19:30 and are open to the public, who are welcome to ask questions or make comments to the Council during a public forum.

Contacting the Council

Councillors and staff can be contacted at the Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, Woodbridge, IP12 4BP.

Telephone 01473 612632. Please leave a message if no reply and we will get back to you as necessary. The office is open to the public between 10:00 until 15:00 (Monday – Friday, excluding public holidays)

Email: enquires@martleshamcouncil.org.uk or clerk@martleshamcouncil.org.uk Website: - www.martleshamparishcouncil.org.uk

Please also follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn).

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST 2025 – Delivering Christmas Cheer and Supporting Local Scouting.

The much-loved Scout Post is back for 2025, offering an affordable and community-spirited way to send Christmas cards locally while supporting Scouting across the region.

Running from 25th November to 9th December, the service ensures deliveries by Christmas Eve – helping to spread festive joy across Ipswich and surrounding areas.

For just 40p per card, you can post your cards at one of the many Scout Post collection boxes located across the region. A full list of box locations is available on the official website: <https://scoutspostipswich.org.uk>.

In the Martlesham area the boxes are at:

Duncans Butchers/Bakery
The Runway Cafe, St Michael's Church
Black Tiles Post Office Stores
The Scout Building.

We deliver to the following places only:

Ipswich (postcodes IP1 – IP5)
Kesgrave, Rushmere, Martlesham, Martlesham Heath

Pinewood, Claydon, Bramford
Sproughton, Gt Blakenham, Barham, Henley,
Westerfield, Witnesham, Tuddenham
Grundisburgh, The Bealings, Culpho, Playford
Felixstowe, Walton, Trimley St Mary, Trimley St Martin, Kirton, Falkenham

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Residents are encouraged to post early as it gets very busy later on.

Martlesham Heath Pavilion Management Committee
Registered Charity No.1069469
Email: chairmhpc@gmail.com for more information



AGM

Martlesham Heath Pavilion Committee

8pm, Tuesday 2nd December 2025

In the Pavilion

All welcomed – come and have your say

MARTLESHAM HEATH HOUSEHOLDERS LTD

MHHL Website

A reminder that lots more information about Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd can be obtained on our website at www.mhhl.co.uk



New Trees on the Jubilee Green

Three MHHL volunteers enjoyed a morning on the Jubilee Green (North Green), replacing two trees in the Jubilee Patch that sadly had not survived. A White Prunus Cerasifera and a Pink Cercis Siliquastrum were planted, which will bring lovely colour to the area in early spring and complement the existing blossom trees already thriving there. Water bags will be fitted to help the young trees cope with any dry spells. Residents whose homes face onto the Green are kindly invited to keep an eye on the new arrivals and, if willing, lend a hand with occasional watering during the hotter months next summer. Your support will help these new trees establish and flourish for everyone to enjoy.

Merry Christmas

The directors and volunteers of MHHL wish all readers a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Surcharge on 1 December 2025

Please note that if the £45 subscription remains unpaid by 1 December 2025, an additional surcharge of £10 will be levied. If you have any queries leave a voicemail on 01473 612207 or send an email to martleshamheathhouseholder@gmail.com

Firebreak Cutting Season

Just a gentle reminder that we are now in Firebreak cutting season until the end of February 2026 for those it applies to. Please ensure all waste is disposed of in green bins or at the local waste centre on Foxhall Road.

Reminder to Dog Walkers

This is a polite reminder to dog walkers to please pick up after their dog has been to the toilet. Always remember to take your doggy waste bags with you when out with your dog.

Please Report Tree Damage caused by high Winds

A lot of the trees in the woods are now getting old and it is essential that everyone reports any tree damage to our email address or voicemail address or with a whatthree words location so that appropriate action can be taken. If you spot any trees that look dangerous, please leave your telephone number and we will ring you back. MHHL contact information is available below and on public signs.

Volunteers

This is a call to any residents who would like to volunteer a bit of time. It is important that a good base of volunteers is maintained. For anyone interested it is a good opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes and have your say on a variety of issues that arise from time to time. Should you be interested please leave a voicemail on 01473 612207 or send an email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com

Contact and further Information

If there are any issues that you feel that need attention please do not hesitate to contact Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd by leaving a voicemail on 01473 612207 or by email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com or by post to Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd, PO Box 897, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 9PB.

Martlesham Monthly Update from Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP

These parish newsletters are an important opportunity for me to share the work I'm doing in Parliament and, most importantly, to update you on how I'm campaigning for change on issues that matter to us in Suffolk Coastal.

Over the past few months, I've been focusing on rural road safety, particularly around our primary schools. On almost every school visit, I hear the same concerns – from teachers, parents, and pupils – about the dangers children face getting to and from school each day. From speeding traffic on 60mph roads outside school gates, to unsafe crossing points and roads never designed with children in mind, these are everyday realities that simply aren't good enough.

Since starting this campaign, I've been determined that road safety – and children getting to school safely – should be a basic right.

In September, children from Bucklesham Primary School joined me in presenting our constituency petition to No.10 Downing Street. This was just the beginning of a campaign that I'll be taking forward nationally.

In November, I'll present my own "Ten-Minute Rule Bill" to Parliament, which will begin a national campaign to call on government to introduce measures that make roads safer around schools. Young students, parents, teachers, and communities see these dangers daily. Yet their concerns are too often met with shrugging shoulders or excuses – that we're a county that puts road users first, or that it's parental responsibility.

Like many, I worry that action will only come after the most unimaginable tragedy. Road safety – or rather, people's and children's safety – is something that we should all be able to demand action on. It shouldn't be party political.

Over the coming months, you'll hear more from me about this. If you have any experiences to share that could help shape my campaign, please get in touch.

jenny.riddellcarpenter.mp@parliament.uk

Bus update

The 800 Bus Service now runs between Rendlesham, Woodbridge, Martlesham P&R, Ipswich and the London Road P&R, Ipswich and back. This service is available Monday to Friday (except public holidays with stops at Martlesham Park & Ride, Martlesham Heath, BT and Martlesham Black Tiles. On Saturdays the service stops at Martlesham Black Tiles and the Park & Ride.

The 64 Bus Service runs between Ipswich and Aldeburgh, Monday to Friday and can be accessed from the following stops in Martlesham/Martlesham Heath:- Martlesham Police Headquarters, Black Tiles, Crown Point, Water Bridge, Martlesham Nursery. Timetables are available on line at www.suffolkonboard.com. If you do not have access to the internet, we will be happy to assist you in the Parish Council Office.

Martlesham in Bloom

Bring the outside indoors this December During December why not enjoy your garden or outdoor space indoors too!

Winter arrangements indoors of stems from evergreen shrubs, including conifers, from your garden, put in water in a vase or other container can create a lovely display to decorate your home. Including some coloured foliage or stems with berries such as from Holly or Cotoneaster, adds highlights of colour. Of course, don't forget to leave plenty of berries outside for the wildlife! You could also add some cut flowers. It is a great way to make use of some prunings from the garden!

Another idea is to make a bunch of sprays of foliage from evergreen shrubs tied up with ribbon which can be hung on your front door. A small branch or branches from a deciduous shrub or tree can be put in a vase or similar of

water and have some of your Christmas cards hung on them.

If you have outdoor space perhaps have a container of plants with winter colour near your window, positioned where you can enjoy it from inside or outside to provide cheer to you and passers-by.

A small Christmas fir tree in a pot is another way to bring the outdoors in and can be kept on a windowsill for two or three weeks, as long as it is kept watered; it can be put outside later and kept in a pot ready for December next year.

Why not consider adding more evergreen shrubs and other plants to your outdoor space over winter, ready to provide decorative sprays of foliage for the years!

Christmas greetings to everyone from Martlesham in Bloom.

For further information about Martlesham in Bloom please contact: J Maureen Burrows (Secretary) on Tel. 01473 625196.martleshaminbloom@gmail.com

GORSELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES ON OUR GOVERNING BOARD:

2 x Co-opted Governor

1 x Local Authority Appointed Governor

Gorseland is a two-form entry primary school with a large Nursery and two specialist units. We are situated in Martlesham Heath, next to Kesgrave, and are fortunate enough to have vibrant and spacious outdoor facilities that bring learning and play to life both inside and outside of our classrooms.

Gorseland is an inclusive learning community where children and staff alike value being ready, respectful and safe in our endeavours to be the best we can be. We feel it is our duty to foster and celebrate a love of learning through developing children who are self confident, hard working and resilient. Happy children who achieve success academically, socially and emotionally are proud children, a pride that definitely extends to the adults who guide and support them here at Gorseland.

This is a great opportunity for someone who is looking to support their local community, provide support for the school and its school leadership team, and help ensure it continues to grow from strength to strength. The school's Governing Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- Holding the school leaders to account for the performance of the school
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent

What we're looking for

You don't have to be a parent or connected to the school in some way to be a Governor.

We are looking for people with enthusiasm, and, if possible, expertise and experience in areas such as finance, HR, data, H&S, Safeguarding, or SEN. Governors do not need to have a background or knowledge in education.

All new Governors receive Governor induction training, safeguarding training and mentor support from another Governor as standard. In addition to these, there is a Governor training programme with a range of both face to face and virtual sessions and e-learning that can support Governors with developing the knowledge and expertise that they need for the role.

What we require of governors

In terms of time commitment, we expect that governors will attend up to 10 meetings per year which generally take place early evening and are approximately 2 hours. Occasional visits to see the school in action and meet with staff are also expected. Governors will be required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check prior to appointment.

If you would like more information on governance or to find out a bit more about the school, then please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Webb, Chair of Governors on dwebb@gorseland.net who will provide further information and an application form.

MARTLESHAM PRESCHOOL

As the seasons have changed, we have been exploring Autumn with lots of different colours and textures through play, and during our woodland walks. Our children loved getting involved in various activities during science and cooking week. We always do lots of craft activities and have just created some lovely firework paintings. We had a busy few days for those children that attended our holiday club. Including a church service with Reverend Toby, where we stopped off at the bakery on our walk back for some yummy treats.

We are currently accepting applications for new starters for September 2026 however, these spaces are filling up quickly. Please contact us to secure your child's space and to arrange a visit. Contact us on 01473 625986 or via email Martleshampreschool@outlook.com



KESGRAVE LIBRARY NEWS

The staff at Kesgrave Library would like to wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support throughout 2025, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sunday Crafts 10.00 – 12.00pm. – during December, we will be making the following crafts:

Sunday 7th – Design an envelope and stamp for your Christmas list letter to Father Christmas.

Sunday 14th – This week we are making mosaic Christmas baubles for your tree.

Sunday 21st – Create a Christmas tree picture by drawing around your hand and decorating it.

Sunday 28th – Make a New Year's Wish – what will you wish for?

Activities are free. Parents must stay with under eights.

Word Play Sessions – Every Thursday

Morning. Trained staff run these free sessions. No sessions on Thursday 25th December.

Tot Rock – 9.45 – 10.15 a.m. – active songs and rhymes for pre-school children.

Baby Bounce – 10.45 – 11.15 a.m. – Gentle songs for you and your baby to enjoy.

No need to book. Please just pop along.

Friday Fun Time Every Friday 9.45–10.15am.

Fun stories, rhymes, songs and toys – this is a free activity.. No Session Friday 26th December.

Lego Club – Every Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm.

Free play with each child given a basket of Lego bricks to create designs of their choice.. No session on Tuesday 30th December.

Stay and Play. Every Tuesday 10.00–11.00am. No Session on Tuesday 30th December.

Scout Post Box – this will be in the library from Tuesday 25th November - Tuesday 9th December. Each card costs 40p to post. Please place the cards and money in a sealed bag before posting.

Somersham Ward Christmas Cards – CASH ONLY. This year, Kesgrave Library Community Group are selling Somersham Ward Christmas cards to fundraise. All cards sold, will benefit the cancer wards at Ipswich hospital and the library.

New Baby Weighing Station – this facility will be available during our Word Play sessions every Thursday only:

Christmas/New Year Opening Hours

Monday 22nd/Tuesday 23rd – Open as usual

Wednesday 24th – CLOSED

Thursday 25th – CLOSED

Friday 26th – CLOSED

Saturday 27th – Open as usual

Sunday 28th – Open as usual

Monday 29th – Open as usual

Tuesday 30th – Open as usual

Wednesday 31st – Closing at 4.00 p.m.

Thursday 1st January – CLOSED

Friday 2nd – Open as usual



BRIGHT STARS

Bright Stars Activities sheets for preschool aged children.

Would you like to receive them?

At the moment we are sending out free activity sheets by email and/or post on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month during term time, for the children to enjoy doing with their family and/or carers, instead of meeting in St Michaels Church Centre, Martlesham Heath.

The activity sheets usually include a story, song and a craft or game about a theme or a story from the Bible. During last month we made lanterns for the story in the New Testament where Jesus explained to his friends we can all be like lights in the world. We then started the Christmas story following Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

If you have or look after a child/children of pre-school age, or slightly older and would like to receive our activity sheets, please give us a call on the telephone number below; we look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.

If you would like further information, please contact: Sonya & Maureen Burrows
Tel.01473 625196

A community café offering work and training opportunities for people with disabilities

20 The Square, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SL

Opening Hours:
Monday - Saturday
8.30am-4.30pm

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Martlesham Conservation Group

Many thanks to all those who came along to our work parties in October and November and helped to clear gorse and other scrub producing more clear areas of heather. We also hope the bare patches we seeded by spreading heather clippings will produce young heather plants in the next year or two for the benefit of a range of wildlife including, butterflies, beetles and reptiles. May be you could help protect this rare form of habitat for wildlife ? See below for information on our work parties.

There are many things we can do in our own gardens to help wildlife and increase biodiversity. Try growing plants that caterpillars, aphids, beetles and other invertebrates feed on. These will provide food for a range of wildlife. Some birds need a staggering number of caterpillars to feed on. Berry bearing shrubs are also a great idea. The Blackbirds have been feeding up on Cotoneaster berries in gardens over the last few weeks. Try letting your grass grow long and allow any wildflowers mixed in to develop flower and set seed. This action could provide nectar sources for many insects, seed for birds, and

shelter for invertebrates. Consider having some sources of water, it does not need to be a garden pond, smaller pools or even a saucer will do. Try creating piles of twigs and logs or leaves, beneficial for a range of wildlife. Make a compost heap with an open structure and you could attract reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. You could help a hedgehog to endure the winter months by leaving some vegetation to provide shelter. Please let autumn leaves rot where they fall or rake them in to piles and leave areas uncut over winter and always check for hedgehogs whenever you cut long grass or bramble.

A number of bird species may join us from colder climates to the north over the winter period; the heath has had several visitors over the winter period in previous years such as Stonechats, Dartford Warblers, Redwings, and Fieldfares; even familiar species such as Blackbirds could have migrated from a considerable distance. The Martlesham Wilds and Martlesham creek area will also have winter visitors including Teal and Widgeon, Black Tailed Godwits and Redshank. We could have colourful Waxwings dropping into the square to feed on the berries

which seem plentiful this year. Please spare a thought for our wild birds and other wildlife and put out food and water in your gardens and leave berries on bushes to help them through the cold spells.

If you are interested in the activities of the group or have any interesting wildlife observations please contact us. Our next work party is on Sunday 7th December at 10am on the Martlesham Heath SSSI. Please meet at the south end of the site near the sign board between Heathfield and The Oaks for a session involving gorse, bramble and scrub clearance. Our first work party in the New Year will be on Sunday 4th January at 10am also on the Heath SSSI, probably towards the north end of the site in the open area.

Our work parties continue through the winter, usually on the first Sunday of the month (depending on the weather). Please contact me if you are interested in taking part.

May we wish you all a happy Christmas from Martlesham Conservation Group.
Phil Smith 01473 625630 e-mail:
martleshamconservationgrp84@gmail.com



Credit: J Lord. Drone picture of new scrapes at Martlesham Wilds.

What's going on at Martlesham Wilds?

The scrapes and ponds are filling up at Martlesham Wilds and we are seeing new visitors. The works are not quite finished yet (but will be very soon) but already we are seeing the benefits. A small flock of teal has taken up residence on one of the new ponds, little egrets are on the scrapes and a rock pipit has been spotted on the river wall. Soon two new viewing platforms will be installed on the King's Coast Path and you will be able to enjoy all the birdlife and the stunning views out across the saltmarsh and the scrapes – we highly recommend exploring the path across this side of the reserve, which has only just opened to the public.

In other news we have been welcoming A level biology students to the reserve, to learn about vegetation changes and restoration processes. It's really nice to be able to show students how quickly landscape change takes place when allowed to do so, and to talk about the positives and negatives of things like the widespread presence of non-native weedy species. These species, for example different types of fleabane, are highly likely to be transient and will most probably soon be replaced by native grasses and scrubby species such as bramble and blackthorn.

Date for your diaries: Martlesham Wilds – Two years on! Wednesday 11 February, 2026, St Michael & All Angels Church, Martlesham IP5 3PL 7pm-9pm £5.
Booking via www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/martleshamwilds soon!

Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

On a mild October morning, our Volunteers were busy clearing the brambles and bracken from the southern Bronze Age burial mound (tumulus). Keep a lookout for fungi at this time of year, as Autumn often brings out the best examples. Wishing all our Volunteers, supporters and visitors an enjoyable festive season!

Our next work morning is Sunday, 14th December, from 10:00 to noon, meeting at the Education Area. New volunteers of all ages and abilities are always welcome; no experience is needed. For further information, please contact us at pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com, phone 01473 612632, visit our website: www.martleshamparishcouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/portal-woodlands-working-group, or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.

Stephen Corley, Chairman

Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Woodbridge Wildlife Group

We have several events coming up.

WINTER TALK

"Winged Wonders Why insects are important" by Dr Ross Piper

Dr Ross Piper looks at the extraordinary diversity of insects, what makes them so important, why they're under threat and what we can do to help them

Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm
in Woodbridge Community Hall
Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

WINTER TALK

"Wildlife in East Anglia" by Barbara Meyer, Wildlife Photographer

Thursday 15th January at 7.30pm
in Woodbridge Community Hall
Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

WINTER TALK

"Creating Resilient Landscapes on the Suffolk Coast" by Harry Tucker

Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm
in Woodbridge Community Hall
Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

Phil Smith - Chairman Woodbridge Wildlife Group of Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Martlesham Brass are looking for secure storage for a trailer, which fits in a standard sized domestic garage.

Ideally the storage will be in Martlesham or Martlesham Heath.

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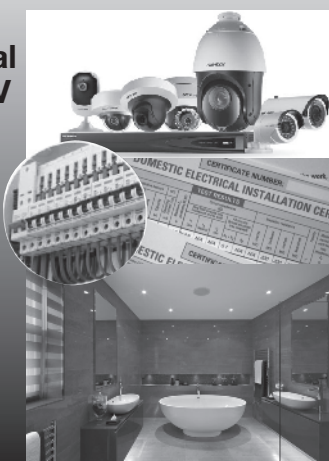
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Jan 11 & 25 2026

February 8 & 22

All are welcome to join us for our
church service at 10am and/or tea and
coffee at 11am



MARTLESHAM CLIMATE ACTION

Thermal Imaging time again!

As winter approaches, the temperature difference between inside and outside your home means my thermal imaging camera will give good indications of any heat loss areas.

If you would like me to pop round and have a look, please drop me a request via the e-mail below. Note that this is not a professional survey (there is no cost!) but just me trying to help you understand where you might need more insulation. This will help you cut down heating bills and save carbon emissions in the process. A win/win! If you are interested, I could also share more about my low carbon journey and personal experiences with a more vegetarian diet, air source heat pump, solar PV and water heating, battery and electric car.

New Deben Climate Centre Hub Opens

As reported previously, a few of us have been supporting the Woodbridge based Deben Climate Centre (debencimate.org) with their 'Energy Champions' project and water quality monitoring (in our case Martlesham Creek and bottom of the Fynn) to put pressure on Anglian Water to reduce raw sewage spills and engage landowners and other stake holders to help clean up our rivers.



The Hub (called the DeCC because it floats) is the large dark-red Pod, immediately beside the Quay Café at the bottom of the station footbridge in Woodbridge. It will be used to promote the water monitoring work (now called the 'Four Rivers Project'), and it will have a testing station on board. It will also be a place where the Energy Champions can engage with the community, to further their advice service supported by a few of us from Martlesham.

Check out the website (debencimate.org) for opening times and pop in when you are next in Woodbridge! If you would like to volunteer some time to support the work, you can leave your name at the hub or via the website.

Martlesham Repair and Climate Advice Hub

There is NO Repair Hub in December. The next Repair Hub is 10-12, on Saturday January 10th in the Parish Room as usual. If you have items to repair, you can also take them to the Repair Shed off Sandy Lane. See <https://suffolkrepairshed.org>

Dave Green, co-chair Martlesham Climate Action
(a Parish Council working group)

Website:

www.martleshamclimateaction.onesuffolk.net

E-mail:

martleshamclimateaction@btinternet.com

Bluesky: @martleshamca.bsky.social

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Woodbridge Methodist Church has been able to attract the top-flight, local singers of Octave Vocal Ensemble to give a Christmas concert on Saturday 20th December.

This group made its debut on the local music scene in 1989 with an extensive repertoire, both light and serious. They have performed in several local venues, including a concert at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge.

Come and hear eight beautiful voices, and enjoy some German Christmas refreshments. There will also be a raffle.

All in aid of the Church's New Front Doors. The concert starts at 7.30 pm. Parking on church forecourt or carparks nearby.



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MARTLESHAM HEATH AVIATION SOCIETY

At our Meeting on Friday 7th November we welcomed Stuart Yule, in a talk he presented as a tribute to his late Father Fred, who had worked at RAF Martlesham Heath in 1956 as part of his National Service, later on working at The Post Office Research (later BT Labs), Martlesham Heath. He and his son Stuart both became members of the Society.

We have had a string of really good talks through 2025, but, in the opinion of many, Stuart, (Rolls Royce Business Technical Specialist) topped them all. His talk revealed how the Aircraft Industry, and in particular Rolls Royce continue working towards producing leaner, cleaner, quieter and more fuel efficient aircraft – aiming towards Nett Zero Co2 emission. In his opinion – the aim for Nett Zero by 2050 is unrealistic. Despite the valiant efforts of the Aircraft Industry – this dream is far off.

Stuart outlined developments in Jet Engine development, when engines such as the “Ultrafan” family, leaped from 25,000 to 110,000 horsepower.

Various ideas are being tested for aircraft use, including using Electric and Electric-Hybrid engines, hydrogen and hydrogen fuel cells. All have significant technical challenges. Aircraft engines are already running on 10% ethanol – but where does this come mainly from plants which also contribute to Co2 emissions. The whole scheme is chasing the likely increase in aircraft traffic – in 2024 there were 6.7M flights, this is predicted become 16.3M by 2050. Airbus are producing 3 new aircraft a day to join about 50,000 commercial aircraft in current use. Whilst these figures are surprising – it is reckoned that commercial aircraft currently only produce about 3% of global Co2. Stuart summed up his talk by saying “most new cleaner aircraft, with cleaner fuel, will firstly only appear on local short hop aircraft, as the Air Transport and Aviation Industry adapts to the new requirements and fuel – whatever that may be”.

After the talk Stuart presented a Cheque to our Society President Roger Harrison, that his father Fred had bequeathed to us – to be used towards our future projects.

The Martlesham Heath Remembrance Service, once again organised at Barrack Square on the afternoon of Sunday 9th November, was well attended. For the first time our Society Trustee Pat Lisseman officiated on a pleasant sunny, late Autumn Day, as we remembered those based at RAF Martlesham Heath and elsewhere, who gave their lives for their Country since 1914.

The Martlesham Heath Aviation Society's next Monthly Meeting takes place on Friday 5th December at 7:30pm.

Richard Mann will be taking us with his talk “Up in The Air” a light-hearted look at the history of aviation, and our journey up into the air looking through the ages as ideas formed into the wild, wacky and sometimes dangerous efforts to get off the ground!

Tickets for this fascinating talk are £3 for Society members - £5 for others, who are always welcomed. Pay cash or Card. Just come along on the night and Pay at the Door. You can join the Society at the Meeting if you wish,

Monthly meetings of the Martlesham Heath Aviation Society take place at The Martlesham Heath Community Centre (in the largest Hall) Felixstowe Road, Martlesham Heath IP12 4PB

The First Meeting in 2026 is on Friday 2nd January at 7:30pm. Chris Turland presents “Women Pilots”. Like their male compatriots they had their own adventures. A few Aviatrinx became famous, but others deserve more recognition, which will also be given.

Website: www.mhas.org.uk

Tickets: No need to book - just turn up and pay at the door, by Cash or Card.

Telephone: 01473 274300

Email: publicity@mhas.org.uk

The Deben Rotary Club of Woodbridge will be bringing Santa on his sleigh again this year

Listed below the routes that he will be coming round. Note that, as last year, some of the routes will be starting where they ended before and ending where they started.

We hope to have a tracker device so you can see where we are.

All money collected is for the Charity Trust fund of the Club from which we support Local, District, National and International Charities. Charity No. 1151275. For more information regarding the Rotary one million plus members in the world, please, Contact Rotarian Ian O'Brien Baker on 01394 382419, or 07747 610 894, or ianmeadhome@btconnect.com.

All the Rotary movement hope you have a very happy Christmas and marvellous New Year.

The sleigh runs are dependent on weather being suitable. All runs start 5.45pm. All runs end approx. 8pm.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODBRIDGE DEBEN RUNS FOR DECEMBER 2025

Thursday Evening November 27th. 6pm. on. outside the Old HSBC Bank. (Cornish Bakery)
Saturday Morning 13th. December from 9.30am. to (approx.) 4.00pm. outside the Old HSBC Bank. (Cornish Bakery)

9th. December 2025 RUN 1

Warren Lane, Westlands, Harvesters Way, The Oaks, Holly End, Pine Bank, Heath Field, and Mews, Heather and Digby Close, C

11th. December 2025 RUN 2

Mayfield and Lane, York Road, Lancaster Drive, Coopers Road, Swan Close, Avocet Lane, Hunters Ride, The Chase.

17th. December 2025 RUN 3

Farriers Close, Out Eastgate, De Brink on the Green, Valient Way, (Possibly Bader Court,) Saddlers Place, Carlford Close.

19th. December 2025 Run 4

Broomfield, Whinfield, and Mewises off, Parkers Place, The Grove, Manor Road, Black Tiles Lane, (Stop at crossroads, Angela Close / Carol Avenue, then. New road down Black Tiles Lane, Bramble Close



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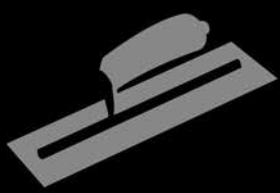


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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH MARTLESHAM BRASS

Martlesham Brass have a busy December coming up - see them at the following events

- Coffee & Carols' Saturday 6th December St Michael's Church Centre Martlesham Heath
- 10.00 - 12.00. Free admission
- Martlesham Square Saturdays 13th & 20th December 10.00 - 11.30, collecting for our chosen charities, Ipswich Outreach, Just 42 and FIND (Families in Need Ipswich)
- Christmas Concert Saturday 20th December St Michael's Church Centre Martlesham Heath 7.00pm. Tickets £5.00 (primary school age children free) 07544 962205, or on the door.
- Tesco Martlesham Sundays 7th 10.00 - 12.00 & 21st December 1.00 - 3.00, collecting for our chosen charities.
- Carols in The Square Martlesham Heath Monday 15th December 7.00pm

If you feel you would like to learn to play a brass instrument, or if you already play and would be interested in joining us, please email join@martleshambrass.co.uk (please note that we are currently operating a waiting list for our beginners' band) If you wish to hire the band to perform at an event, please contact our booking secretary by emailing booking@martleshambrass.co.uk

Liz Howard (Publicity Officer)
publicity@martleshambrass.co.uk. 07544 96220
Registered Charity No.1100922. Visit our website www.martleshambrass.co.uk

USED STAMPS APPEAL FOR ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE, IPSWICH

The hospice in Foxhall Road, Ipswich is an independent charity which provides its services free of charge. Each year it costs around £12.9 million to deliver this care and run the organisation, only 30% of which comes from the NHS. The majority is met through donations, fundraising and the support and generosity of the local community and volunteers.

One way you can help is by donating your used stamps. There is a team of volunteers which sorts them and sells to dealers, collectors and on eBay, thus turning used stamps into cash. When you receive your Christmas cards and letters, instead of just throwing the envelopes away, save the corner with the stamp on (leaving a gap around the edge of the stamp to avoid damage). Any stamps will do – vintage, first and second class, special edition and foreign, even old stamp albums. Post them through my letterbox and I will take them to the hospice. Or if it more convenient, take them directly to one of the hospice shops in our area. Please continue to do this throughout the year – all the stamps received soon add up to a great deal – remember, every little helps!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year and wishing you all a merry Christmas,

Bev Read
15 Demesne Gardens, Martlesham Heath
Tel 01473 622721

LADIES ON THE GREEN

Our Film and Theatre Club are off to the Seckford Theatre again this month, this time to see a festive musical, comedy, spoof called 'Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil' by the Common Ground Theatre Co. I imagine the puns will be rife !!

A group of us are joined the Orwell Ladies Choir for their Xmas workshop in St Michaels, in November and enjoyed some old favourites, plus learned some new pieces, but generally had a really good old singsong ! Thank you for your hospitality Orwell Ladies.

The Coffee Club is open to any member who's at a loose end and fancies a chat and coffee. We meet at the Runway Cafe on the village green at 10am on the first Friday of each month.

Our Xmas meeting on 19th December, though different to previously advertised, will be no less entertaining. Our huge thanks go to John Whitehead, for pulling out all the stops to regail us with stories of the Royal Family at Xmas. Our post Xmas lunch at the Ipswich and District Bowls club will take place in January, which at time of writing, more than half of the club members will attend.

Our speaker for November told the moving stories of the women who worked in 'munitions in the first world war and became jaundiced through their close contact with the toxic chemicals handled. In January, we welcome back our old friend John, who this time will talk to us about Richard III, Found in a Leicester Car Park! Competiton: anything to do with a fox !

Our apologies, but at this time we have reached our limit of members and have a waiting list, but you are still welcome to attend one of our meetings to see if you would be interested to join in the future. So give us a call. We meet usually on the third Friday of the month, in the Martlesham Heath Pavilion, The Drift, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3PL 1.45pm to 4.15 Contact : Rosemary on 07512 776232 or June on 07594 189100 for more information.

MARTLESHAM LADIES CLUB

We meet every two weeks from September through to the end of June each year. At the moment we have just over 60 paid up members, approximately 40 of whom come on a regular basis.

We aim to have a speaker or craft session each time, with slide shows, fashion, jewellery etc. We have a break halfway through the afternoon for tea/coffee and biscuits, which is an opportunity for everyone to chat amongst themselves. We also have a raffle with the proceeds going to our nominated charity - this year it is The Air Ambulance.

Since we began this year we have heard from The Blood Runners, The British Legion and enjoyed an afternoon of Ho! Bingo. Our last meeting in October we even went on a "cruise to the Scottish Islands".

In November we will have had a talk entitled "Cake and Catwalk" and enjoyed some clothes and jewellery display, followed by a lighthearted talk at the end of the month about East End Gangs & Terrorists on 20th.

Come December Jenny will endeavour to teach us all to make a Christmas Fairy on 4th. There is a limit of 40 people for that craft, although others are welcome to watch!

We will finish off the year on 18th with a session of "Signing and Singing Christmas Songs".

If you need more information please contact me. June 07867525422

BADMINTON IN KESGRAVE

Woodbridge Badminton Club is playing at Kesgrave High School for the winter season (September-April). Adult club nights are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm, league matches are on Thursday evenings for those feeling competitive, and Junior club is on Monday nights.

The good news for the club, but not-so-good-news for prospective joiners is that at the time of writing the Junior club is already full and the Adult club is also getting very busy. So, if you are interested in joining it is important to contact us via email jim.cavanagh955@gmail.com or ring Jim Cavanagh on 0780 323 2892 before you come along. You may be able to come any try us out for a £6 guest fee, refundable against the annual membership if you join for the season.

We welcome a range of abilities but unfortunately not adult beginners. For latest details check out our website at <https://www.woodbridgebadminton.co.uk>.

Autumn/Winter Activities at Suffolk County Music Service

With county-wide musical activities, Suffolk County Music Service are well-placed to promote not one, but two charities over their forthcoming 2025/26 season. As part of our commitment to supporting the wellbeing of Suffolk's young people, we are proud to again be promoting James' Team for the 2025-26 academic year.

The organisation was formed in memory of young musician and avid reader James, and they are currently raising funds to buy books for Year 6 pupils which help promote self-confidence and positive wellbeing in young people. They also fundraise for PAPYRUS - Prevention of Young Suicide, who help to break the stigma, start the conversation and save young lives.

SMART Suffolk exists to ensure that young people in Suffolk have access to arts opportunities to enrich their lives. SMART provides funding to help Suffolk's young people access high-quality music and arts opportunities (including with us) and will be present at our pre-Christmas events.

Keep an eye out for our events in and around Suffolk, particularly in the lead-up to Christmas, where you will see collections for SMART & James' Team. Our popular Area Concerts will be on Friday 5th December, so tickets will be on sale via TicketSource

Thought for the month – Are we nearly there yet.....?

Well.....! We're nearly there.....by the time this month's magazine lands on your door mat we will be only a couple of weeks away from the Christmas Celebrations. However, I expect a few of you have already been involved in some Christmas events with friends, work colleagues or with one of your social groups.

How are you doing? Are you an organised person who has everything planned or are you ignoring the inevitable and getting ready to panic a couple of days beforehand? Have you ordered the Christmas meal, got all the menus planned, put up and decorated the Christmas tree and the lights outside, sent out all the Christmas cards or the email notes to the friends you rarely see, and what about those who have moved abroad....have you remembered deadlines for postingoh yes there's the presents to buy as well? Have you got the list for the parents, grandparents, children and best friends? Are you just worn out by thinking about all you must do before the 25th, let alone the cost not only financial but the social cost; the anxiety, stress and tiredness.

Why oh why do we bother? It seems each year it becomes more and more commercial with adverts hinting about Christmas in September telling us you need this food or that drink to really enjoy your celebration, to spend more and more on presents we don't need. We have moved a long way from a special day of celebration relaxing with friends and family in mid-winter to liven our spirits, to a time of stress and worry with the pressure to get everything right.

Why bother? Yet Christmas is the time when we remember the greatest gift we have ever been given. We remember how a baby born in squalid conditions brought a message of hope for all humanity, demonstrating the love and compassion of God for everyone and showing how we can live a life of fullness and hope.

Perhaps this year it's time to remember how God loves you bringing peace into your heart and recognising His gift for you?

May you, your friends and family have a truly blessed Christmas this year.

Malcolm Rittman
Martlesham with Brightwell

CHARITY CONCERT BY THE COMMUNITY LIGHT STRING ORCHESTRA

The Community Light String Orchestra, conducted by Jan Rowe, are joined by special guests St John's School Choir, conducted by Danielle Freestone, for a charity concert 4.00pm on Sunday 14 December, St Micheal's Church Martlesham Heath.

Home Start Suffolk is the chosen charity, they are rooted firmly in the Suffolk community, creating a society where children are given the best start in life. They empower parents with the skills, knowledge and emotional resilience to raise their children to flourish by offering emotional and practical support to parents and carers with at least one child in the home under the age of 12. To do this, they recruit, train and support volunteers who offer their time and kindness to help others who are experiencing a period of difficulty and bring about genuine, long-lasting change for families.

The concert, conducted by Jan Rowe and Danielle Freestone, will be performing an exciting afternoon of music for strings and choir

The concert will include music by Elgar, Nielson and Warlock plus numbers from The Snowman by Howard Blake and there will be other festive music too from both the Choir and the Orchestra.

GIPPESWYK SINGERS

Saturday 6th December at 4pm

St. Michael and All Angels
Martlesham Heath.

We will be singing two works by
Vivaldi - his Gloria and a short
Credo - accompanied by
The Dargason Ensemble.

Local soloists on this occasion will
be Sara Viney, Michelle Hazell
and Elizabeth Elliott.

Join us for Refreshments & chat,
after the performance

Tickets, £15 on the door, or £12 in
advance are available from
ticketsource.co.uk/gippeswyk-singers
or by phoning 07510 612672.

THE ORWELL SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The choir will be performing a selection
of Christmas and Seasonal Songs at
their concert on

Saturday 13 December, 4.00 pm
at St Michael and All Angels Church,
Martlesham Heath.

The singers will be conducted by
Musical Director, Lindsay Gowers, and
accompanied on pianoforte by Ian Ray.
Mince pies and non-alcoholic punch will
be served in the interval.

There will be a raffle with lots of prizes.
Admission £10 on the door,
accompanied children free.

Further details can be found on their
website www.theorwellsingers.co.uk or
email d.sharman@btinternet.com.

MARTLESHAM COMMUNITY HALL AND RICHARDS ROOM

You can find out about our venues at
our website - mchall.org.uk

You can check hire rates, if they're available
and make an online booking request

Alternatively you can call our Booking
Secretary on 01473 623 203. (Monday to
Saturday 08:00 - 20:00).

If leaving a message, please speak slowly
and repeat your telephone number.

THE MARTLESHAM HEATH PAVILION

Martlesham Heath Pavilion is a great location
for children's parties at the weekend.

You can check availability and book the
Pavilion online at:

martlesham.org.uk/pavilion

Alternatively please contact the booking
secretary:

Email: bookingsecmhp@gmail.com

Phone: 07873 557999

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THE CHURCH IN MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

RECTOR: The Revd Toby Tate The Rectory, 17 Lark Rise, Martlesham Heath
Church phone 01473 612659 (rest day Friday)

CURATE: The Revd Rob Allinson rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk
07359 463312 (rest day Friday)

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Revd Christine Pinder 3 Mayfields, Martlesham Heath
07555 748345 (working days: Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday)

READERS: Marga Gibbs van Dijk 16 Deben Avenue, Martlesham 07837 587340
Carolyn Smith 74 Heathfield, Martlesham Heath

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTER: Emma Allinson emma@martleshamcofe.org.uk
07359 339452

ELDERS: Simon Smith 11 Squires Lane, Martlesham Heath 01473 612410 (eve only)
Liz Welham 23 Deben Avenue, Martlesham Heath 01473 622709
Lynn Wilder Kenton, Nr Debenham 01728 860627

Services for the Month	Martlesham Heath St Michael's Martlesham St Mary's Brightwell St John's	Online on Facebook and YouTube. Search for 'Martlesham Benefice'
Sunday 7th December	St Michael's 9.30am Coffee and pastries 10am Breakfast Church St Mary's 11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 14th December	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 3.30pm Advent Carols	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 21st December	St Michael's 10am Morning Worship St Mary's 11am Holy Communion St Michael's 6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols	10am Morning Worship
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion 4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion	A warm welcome awaits you at all our services.
Thursday 25th December Christmas Day	St Michael's 10am Christmas Family Holy Communion	10am Christmas Family Holy Communion
Sunday 28th December	St Michael's 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion	10.30am Benefice HC Service
Midweek Services	Every Monday: 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Wednesday 10th and 24th: 10am Holy Communion at St Michael's Monday 15th: 7pm Carols in The Square with Martlesham Brass	

Prayer Diary Please pray daily for peace and include the following as an addition to your daily prayers:

December

- 5 for farmers and growers
- 6 for our volunteer Community Responders
- 7 **Come Jesus, show us the way**
- 8 for those suffering from addictions
- 9 for food bank volunteers and guests
- 10 for the residents of Crown Close
- 11 for better human rights throughout the world
- 12 for all who work for peace
- 13 for those leading Christmas services
- 14 **Come Jesus, fill us with joy**
- 15 for Carols in the Square this evening
- 16 for those facing their first Christmas alone
- 17 for the residents of De Brink on The Green
- 18 for those seeking shelter and rest
- 19 for all retail workers at this busy time
- 20 that the good news of Jesus' birth may be celebrated

21 Come Jesus, be with us

- 22 for NHS workers on duty over Christmas
- 23 for families celebrating Christmas together
- 24 for the residents of Deben Avenue
- 25 **give thanks for the great gift of Jesus, God with us**
- 26 St Stephen: for those who are persecuted for their faith
- 27 for those struggling with debt
- 28 **for church leaders worldwide**
- 29 for those who are lonely or afraid
- 30 for the residents of Demesne Gardens
- 31 give thanks for all the blessings of this past year

January 2026

- 1 for peace throughout the world this year
- 2 for those considering new beginnings this year
- 3 for those returning to school and college
- 4 **that we may faithfully reflect the light of Christ**

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